

# SINGAPORE CHESS FEDERATION SELECTION & TRAINING GUIDELINES

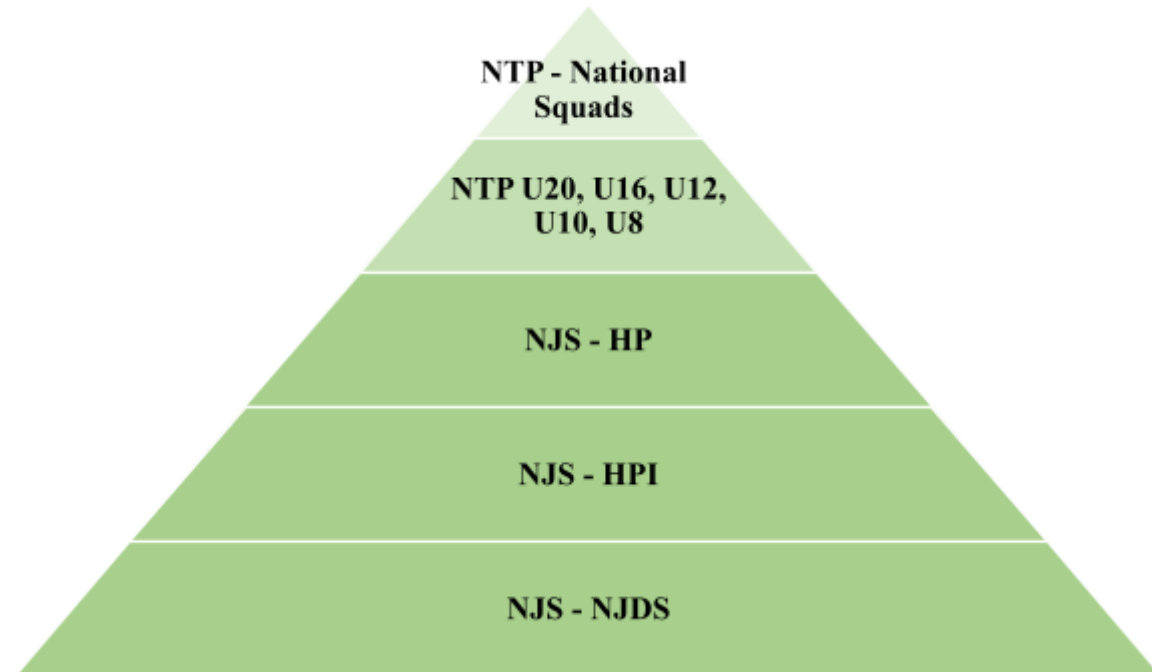
with effect from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2024

## 1. Introduction, Scope, and Key Committee Members

- 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 these selection guidelines. Any enquiries for the committee regarding the Selection Guidelines or the selection process and outcomes can be sent to [hpe@singaporechess.org.sg](mailto:hpe@singaporechess.org.sg).
- 1.3. This document also provides details about training guidelines and expectations that are determined by the SCF Training Committee.
- 1.4. The Selection Committee consists of the following members:
  - IM Jason Goh (SCF Honorary Treasurer)
  - IM Hsu Li Yang (SCF President)
  - Mr. Lau Yan Han (SCF Honorary General Secretary)
- 1.5. The SCF Training Committee consists of the following members:
  - Training Director, GM/FST Thomas Luther ([gmthomasluther@singaporechess.org.sg](mailto:gmthomasluther@singaporechess.org.sg))
  - Assistant Training Director, GM/FT Andrey Kvon ([andrey@singaporechess.org.sg](mailto:andrey@singaporechess.org.sg))
  - GM/FT Kevin Goh ([kevin@singaporechess.org.sg](mailto:kevin@singaporechess.org.sg))
- 1.6. The Selection Committee reserves the right to modify these guidelines whenever appropriate. Reasons of any modifications made during the work year will be provided and published in advance as early as practicable.

## 2. National Training Squads

2.1. The SCF's National Training Squads are depicted in the figure below.



### 2.2. National Junior Squad (NJS)

#### Overview

- i. The aims of the NJS are to:
  - i. Provide young chess athletes with a good foundational understanding of chess.
  - ii. Develop potential talents for the NTP.
- ii. The NJS is only open to athletes aged 20 years or below as of 1st January of the calendar year.

#### Qualification Criteria

- iii. Athletes can automatically qualify for the NJS based on their performance in designated NJS qualification tournaments. These include:
  - i. National Schools Individual Chess Championships (NSI)
  - ii. National Age Group Chess Championships (NAG)
  - iii. Singapore National Chess Championships
  - iv. SG Chess Festival Classical Open
- iv. Players finishing in the top 50% of the athlete's category in the NAG (Dec '23) or the NSI (Mar'24) shall qualify for the NJS from 1 April to 31 December 2024.
- v. If the qualification criteria is not a whole number, we will round down to the next placing, as illustrated below:

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

- **NJS:** 30th to 58th position (top 50% = 57.5, round down to 58)

*Table 2: Example of round-down procedure*

- vi. Sorting Assessment - Applicants for the NJS shall be required to take an entry assessment, and athletes will be grouped into NJDS, HPI and HP based on their assessment results. The assessment shall be prepared by the SCF Training Committee, and the dates of the assessment shall be published within a week after the NSI.
- vii. Successful qualifiers can apply to take the assessment [here](#).
- viii. The assessment and answers shall be published on the SGChessBlog (<https://singaporechess.org.sg/sg-chess-blog/>) after the conclusion of the Grouping Exercise.
- ix. Other local tournaments may be designated as NJS qualification tournaments by the Selection Committee, with specific qualification criteria that will be publicized at least two months in advance.
- x. Rating Criteria – There shall no longer be any rating criteria to qualify for any of the NJS squads. The Grouping Exercise shall determine the suitability of the athletes for any of the squads.
- xi. The result from any designated NJS qualification tournament is only valid for 1 calendar year. For example, if an athlete qualifies for the NJS (Mar '24) via the NSI 2024, his qualification period shall take effect from 1 April to 31 December 2024. If an athlete qualifies for the NJS via the NAG 2024 (Nov'24), his qualification period shall take effect from 1 January 2025 – 31 December 2025.
- xii. The Selection Committee reserves the right to exercise final discretion in the selection of players for the NJS.

Promotion within the NJS

- xiii. 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, may be promoted to the next higher squad. Exceptional athletes in the HP or HPI squads may be invited to join the NTP.

Training sessions

- xiv. Training sessions shall take place once a week, during the weekdays. Players who wish to commit more time and focus on training can apply for the National Training Programmes (see the next section).

- xv. Players grouped into HPI and HP are eligible to play in the end of term HP/HPI rated tournament.

## 2.3. National Training Programme “NTP” (Revised from 1 April 2024)

### Overview

- i. The NTP is a long-term, elite programme with the vision of developing the future chess champions of Singapore, including those who will become International Masters and Grandmasters within a five-year timeframe. Apart from chess skills, the trainers are also focused on teaching applicable life skills, such as independent learning, team learning, time management, and cultivating a winning mindset. This programme is targeted towards passionate chess players who wish to improve their skills significantly and are focused on becoming future Team Singapore representatives.
- ii. All NTP athletes are expected to commit to regular training at a minimum of 3 times a week, and to participate in tournaments regularly. The SCF may on occasion organise training tournaments for the NTP squads. High performing NTP athletes may also be funded for selected high-quality tournaments overseas.
- iii. 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, training schedules and requirements.

### Squads

- iv. The NTP comprises the following squads:
  - Open and Women: Members of these squads are potential representatives of Team Singapore in major events, such as the SEA Games, Asian Games, World Chess Olympiad, Asian Team Championships, and the FIDE World Cup.
  - U20 and U16: Members of these squads are earmarked to be future members of the Open and Women squads. They are expected to demonstrate maturity and to be role models for the junior trainees in the NTP.
  - U12, U10 and U8: Members of these squads are expected to be representatives of Team Singapore at regional and global age group tournaments.
- v. 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:

- i. Multi-Sport events.
- ii. International events requiring National Federation nomination.
- iii. International youth events requiring National Federation nomination.
- iv. Other international events.

3.2. Examples of events classified within each category are shown in Table 1. For types of events that are not listed in the table, the Selection Committee reserves the right to classify them as it deems fit.

| <b>Other international events</b>         | <b>International youth events requiring National Federation nomination</b> | <b>International events requiring National Federation nomination</b> | <b>Multi-Sport Events</b>         |
|---|--|--|-----------------------------------|
| 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 1: Classification of international events*

3.3. The selection criteria used to select players for the abovementioned international events is outlined in Table 2 and are considered in totality.

| <b>Selection Criteria</b>   | <b>Examples</b>   |
|-----------------------------|---|
| Performance in competitions | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Singapore National Chess Championships</li> <li>b. SG Chess Festival Classical Event</li> <li>c. National Age-Group Chess Championships</li> <li>d. Classical events organised internationally.</li> <li>e. National Schools Individuals Chess Championships</li> </ul> |

|  |   |
|--|---|
|  | f. Other local classical events   |
| General Conduct & Character            | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. No misdemeanours in the past year</li> <li>ii. 95% training attendance in the respective squad</li> <li>iii. Positive attitude during trainings and games</li> <li>iv. Sportsmanship</li> </ul> |
| Involvement within the Chess Community | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Volunteered at SCF organised community or social events.</li> <li>b. Mentored a younger chess player.</li> <li>c. Took on leadership role in chess CCA/chess club</li> </ul>                    |
| Training Squad                         | Whether player is in the: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. NTP</li> <li>b. NJS</li> <li>c. Others/Not in a Squad</li> </ul>  |
| Feedback on the player                 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Trainer assessment</li> <li>b. Squad Peer feedback</li> </ul>   |
| 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 2: 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 3.

| <b>Selection Criteria</b>              | <b>International Open events</b> | <b>Official International Youth events</b> | <b>Official International events</b> | <b>Multi-Sport Games</b>                                     |
|--|----------------------------------|--|--------------------------------------|--|
| 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:<br>1) NTP National Squad<br>2) NTP U20, 16, 12, 10, 8<br>3) HP<br><br>No order of priority between 1 & 2 | Priority given to:<br>1) NTP National Squad<br>2) NTP U20, 16, 12, 10, 8<br><br>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++<br>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 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](mailto: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](mailto:hpe@singaporechess.org.sg) in your email.

iv) Other extenuating circumstances such as urgent family matters. Please email [hpe@singaporechess.org.sg](mailto: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:

- Engaging in hate speech associated with racism, sexism, religion, cultural differences, political differences, or sexual orientation.
- Engaging in abusive behaviour, such as shouting or posing malicious threats to trainers, fellow trainees, SCF employees or the SCF Governing Board.
- Being late for tournament games or training repeatedly despite multiple warnings.
- Excessive use of mobile devices during training.
- 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 4.5 shall be subject to any of the following disciplinary measures.

- i. Verbal warning
- ii. Formal warning letter
- iii. Expulsion from the respective squad

4.7. The SCF Governing Board 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](mailto: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.