



Zimbabwe Chess Federation

National Team

Selection Guidelines

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1.0 BACK GROUND

The Zimbabwe Chess Federation is the administrative, development and coordinating Body of all chess activities within Zimbabwe in all areas such as coaching, organizing and playing whether at International, Provincial, Regional, Club and Schools. The Federation is actively involved from grassroots development to Elite Chess in all 10 Provinces. Zimbabwe Chess Federation is affiliated to the Africa Chess Confederation (ACC) and the International Chess Federation (FIDE) and is recognized by the Sport and Recreation Commission of Zimbabwe (SRC).

2.0 PURPOSE

This guideline document seeks to provide clear and precise guidelines, procedures and systems relating to the selection of the Zimbabwe Senior and Junior Chess National team for all official team events and to ensure the best possible squads, teams and Athletes are selected to achieve maximum success when representing Zimbabwe.

3.0 GUIDING PRINCIPLES

ZCF shall provide equal national team selection opportunities for all persons, regardless of age, gender, race, tribe, place of origin, color, disability, creed, pregnancy, political opinion, and HIV status. There shall be no form of discrimination against any individual.

4.0 SELECTION COMMITTEES

- 4.1 The ZCF Board shall appoint (in consultation with the President), in its sole discretion, a panel of up to five but no less than three National Selectors ("Selectors").
- 4.2 The National Team Technical Director by virtue of that position is automatically a Selector.
- 4.3 High school or primary school representatives may be part of the selectors if the selection is for youth teams or players.
- 4.4 The Board will appoint its Chair.
- 4.5 A member assigned by the president of the federation (or his /her delegated alternative) will hold the casting selection vote.

5.0 QUALIFICATION FOR SELECTION

A player can only be considered for any team selection if they fit the following category:

- 5.1 A legally recognized national / citizen of Zimbabwe
- 5.2 Affiliated to the Zimbabwe Chess Federation.
- 5.3 Have a FIDE rating that is reflecting under Zimbabwe on the FIDE servers.
- 5.4 An Active player who has played at least 20 Fide rated games in the last 24 months.
- 5.5 Have a proven track record of discipline and sportsmanship.

6.0 NATIONAL SENIOR TEAM SELECTION

The players who will represent the country at international events will be selected as follows:

- 6.1 Winner of the national Chess championships (section 8.0).
- 6.2 The top three highest rated players: -if one has already qualified by virtue of having won the national championships then the spot goes to the 4th highest rated player on the Fide rating list.
- 6.3 Best performance in the Zimbabwean major Tournaments or other International Tournaments which have a time control of 61 minutes and above per player. If one has already qualified by virtue of having won the national championship or highest rated player the spot will go to the second-best performing player.
- 6.4 Demonstrated and/or potential ability and attitude to work with staff, team officials and other players.
- 6.5 Any current or potential injury or condition which will impair, inhibit or prevent the player's performance to the requisite level.
- 6.6 Any other factor considered relevant at the sole discretion of the Selection committee.

7.0 NATIONAL JUNIOR TEAM SELECTION

- 7.1 Top two winners of the National Junior championships.
- 7.2 The top two highest rated active junior players (specific age category): -if one has already qualified by virtue of having won the national junior championships then the spot goes to the third highest rated player on the Fide rating list.

- 7.3 Best performance in the Zimbabwean major junior and or open Tournaments or other International Tournaments which have a time control of 61 minutes and above per player. If one has already qualified by virtue of having been top two of the national junior championship or highest rated junior player (specific age category) the spot will go to the second-best performing player.
- 7.4 Demonstrated and/or potential ability and attitude to work with staff, team officials and other players.
- 7.5 Any current or potential injury or condition which will impair, inhibit or prevent the player's performance to the requisite level.
- 7.6 Any other factor considered relevant at the sole discretion of the Selection committee.

8.0 ZIMBABWE NATIONAL CHESS CLOSED CHAMPIONSHIPS

8.1 The National chess championships shall comprise of the top 10 chess players in the country. This tournament is a round robin event and a major contributor to the selection of the Zimbabwe National team. The winner of the Nationals gets an automatic qualification to represent Zimbabwe at international contests during his/ her the period of reign.

A player can be considered to play this closed tournament if they fit the following category:

- 8.2 Winner of the last held nationals who comes in as the defending champion.
- 8.3 Top 7 finishes at the previous national's tournament (position 2-7).
- 8.4 The winner of the candidate's tournament.
- 8.5 Winner of the u20 junior championships.
- 8.6 Any active player in the top 10 rating list who was not relegated the previous year.
- 8.7 Top performer in other major Zimbabwe and or international tournaments.
- 8.8 In the event that there is still a vacant position, the selection committee shall decide on a player eligible to play based on meritocracy.
- 8.9 NB: A player who chooses to abstain from the national chess championships without notifying the Selection committee ceases to have any rights to play in upcoming championships. To be readmitted into national chess championships he or she will either have to qualify using other stated means.

9.0 PERFORMANCE

- 9.1** Player performance is one of the benchmarks' to be considered in the selection of team members to represent the country.
- 9.2** Only Zimbabwean major Tournaments which have a time control of 61 minutes and above per player shall be considered.
- 9.3** The top 5 finishes shall be considered were in the winner is awarded 5 marks whilst the 5th position acquires 1 mark save for the Zimbabwe National Championships wherein of individuals shall attract a maximum of 10 marks and the last position earning 1 mark. The scores shall be added to give a performance ranking.
- 9.4** It shall be the responsibility of Players attending other International Tournaments to submit their results to the Federation within 10 days for consideration by the selection committee, the international tournaments shall be analyzed and scored at the selector's discretion.

10.0 GENERAL TERMS AND CONDITIONS

- 10.1 The ZCF President shall ratify all selections decisions prior to the formal announcement of all national teams;
- 10.2 The ZCF President is not empowered to override decisions of the Selection Committee but may refer issues or questions back to this body prior to ratifying decisions made by the committee;
- 10.3 Players have no right to make submissions or representations to, or appear before, the Selection committee unless expressly requested by the Selectors.
- 10.4 Any acts of nepotism shall be dealt with in line with the ZCF Code of conduct.
- 10.5 Selectors will try where possible to give feedback to non-selected players.
- 10.6 The selection review committee is empowered to change selections during the 1-month provisional period if they find that the Selection Committee has made an error during the selection process.
- 10.7 The national team manger shall be responsible for ensuring players are informed of the events they have qualified for, and keeping up to date of their availability.

11.0 APPEALS

- 11.1 An aggrieved athlete may appeal, against a failure of the Selection committee to comply with the procedures set down in this Guidelines.
- 11.2 Any appeal against a decision of the Selectors must be made within 7 days of any public announcement. The appeal shall state clearly the reasons or circumstances supporting the alleged grounds of appeal and must be received and accompanied by the sum of \$2,000 ZWL in clear funds (non-refundable).
- 11.3 On receipt of an appeal the Ethics Director shall immediately request that a Selection Review Panel be formed. Once the Selection Review Panel is formed, the Ethics director must immediately forward the appeal documents to the Selection Review Panel.
- 11.4 The Panel shall be constituted by any three persons available to hear the appeal and who are appointed by the ZCF Board. The Panel has no power of selection or re-selection. The Panel may review the matter set out in the appeal and investigate and consider the matter and shall within 7 days of receiving such notice, determine whether: The matter should be dismissed, because in its determination, the matter has no merit; or The appeal warrants further review and determination in accordance with this Guidelines.
- 11.5 If the Panel determines the matter warrants further review it shall as soon as practicable, having regard to the timing of selection and proximity of relevant events, serve a notice in writing on the aggrieved athlete: Stating that the aggrieved athlete may address the Panel at a meeting to be held as soon as practicable, being not earlier than four days from the date of the notice; the aggrieved may attend that meeting personally and or by his or her representative.
- 11.6 The Panel may conduct a meeting and give to the aggrieved athlete and the Selectors every opportunity to be heard and give due consideration to any written statement by the aggrieved athlete. The Panel shall arrive at a finding. A decision of the Panel will be by a majority decision.
- 11.7 Any Appeal from a decision of the Panel must be solely and exclusively resolved by Sports and Recreation Commission in accordance to the Code of Sports-Related

Arbitration. Any appeal will be at the cost of the aggrieved athlete. The decision of SRC will be final and binding.

12.0 WEARING NATIONAL UNIFORM AND COLOURS.

- 12.1 All officials and players are supposed to adhere to the ZCF uniform and colors. Players who are representing the country at regional or international events shall be awarded national uniforms by the Federation. In the event that the Federation does not have the capacity to provide uniforms for other international tournaments, the uniforms shall still undergo quality control as per the ZCF standards and official communication shall be given for the officials and team to wear the uniform.
- 12.2 The Federation reserves the right to deny a player or coach the right to wear national uniform and colours if they are not in good standing with the Federation.
- 12.3 All Committee Members of the ZCF Executive will be awarded uniforms and colours by virtue of them being National representatives.

13.0 REVISION OF THE SELECTION GUIDELINES

- 13.1 ZCF reserves the right at any time to amend any of the existing guidelines contained in this document and to notify its members accordingly. The ZCF Board shall be responsible for the overall governing policies regarding Selection of teams. This guidelines shall remain in force until further revisions, modification or amendments are made.

_____ Date _____

Mucha Mkanganwi
(ZCF Vice President)

_____ Date _____

Clive Mphambela
(ZCF Secretary General)

And Confirmed by ZCF President for and on behalf of Zimbabwe Chess Federation.

On this, _____ day of _____ **2020.**

Signature _____

Dr Collen Tongowona