Gert Sibande Chess

Affiliate of Mpumalanga Chess

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SELECTION POLICY

Date: 25 February 2025

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GERT Sibande Chess Association Selection Policy

1. Objectives of the Selection Policy

The policy aims to:

- Identify and select players with high potential and performance.
- Provide fair and equal opportunities for all players.
- Ensure representation across different categories, including gender, age, and ability.

2. General Selection Criteria

Selections are based on:

- **Performance**: Measured by recent tournament results and rating.
- **Commitment and Consistency**: Regular participation in tournaments and practices.
- **Eligibility**: Compliance with age, residency, or other category-specific requirements.
- **Availability**: Willingness and ability to commit to training camps, tournaments, and competitions.

3. Selection Committee

The committee will include:

- Qualified selectors or coaches appointed by the Gert Sibande Chess Association.
- A representative from each category where possible (e.g., youth, women, disabled).
- The Gert Sibande Chess Association executive for oversight and transparency.

4. Category-Specific Selection Criteria

A. Adult Team

- **Eligibility**: Open to all players aged 18 and above. Junior players that qualify will not be excluded.
- **Selection**: Based on performance in regional and national tournaments, particularly the most recent 12 months.
- Results for the Gert Sibande Closed Chess Championships will be utilized to select players.
- **Rating Requirements**: Priority to players with the highest Chess SA or FIDE ratings in case there were no selection tournament. Grand prix ratings will also be taken into consideration.

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- **Additional Criteria**: Commitment to representing Gert Sibande at provincial and national events.

B. <u>Senior Team</u>

- **Eligibility**: Players aged 50 and above.
- **Selection**: Based on recent performances in senior-level or open tournaments.
- Results for the Gert Sibande Closed Chess Championships will be utilized to select players
- **Rating Requirements**: FIDE and Chess SA ratings as well as grand prix ratings will be considered but are secondary to active participation in senior-level events should the province not had a selection tournament.
- **Additional Criteria**: Health and availability to travel for competitions.

C. <u>Women's Team</u>

- **Eligibility**: Open to all female players.
- **Selection**: Performance in women's and open tournaments, as well as rating.
- Results for the Gert Sibande Closed Chess Championships will be utilized to select players
- **Rating Requirements**: Priority is given to higher-rated female players with recent activity as well as top listings of the Chess SA grand prix ratings, should the province not have a selection tournament.
- **Additional Criteria**: Encouragement for gender representation at provincial and national levels.

D. <u>Youth Team</u>

- **Eligibility**: Divided into subcategories by age (e.g. U12, U16, U18).
- **Selection**: Based on performances in age-restricted selection tournaments and Chess SA ratings and grand prix ratings if no selection tournament were held.
- **Rating Requirements**: Higher-rated players with consistent performances in youth tournaments are prioritized.
- **Additional Criteria**: Emphasis on commitment to training and potential for long-term growth.

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E. School Team

- **Eligibility**: Players must be enrolled in a school in Mpumalanga.
- **Selection**: Performance in inter-school, regional, provincial school tournaments.
- **Rating Requirements**: Chess SA ratings are considered, but school tournament performances are emphasized.
- **Additional Criteria**: Strong emphasis on teamwork and representing Gert Sibande's school-level chess.

F. Disabled Team

- **Eligibility**: Open to players with physical or intellectual disabilities.
- **Selection**: Based on individual performances in general or specially designated events such as the Gert Sibande Closed Chess Championships for disabled players.
- **Rating Requirements**: Chess SA or FIDE ratings are considered where available.
- **Additional Criteria**: Willingness to represent Gert Sibande in competitions for disabled chess players.

5. Selection Process

- **Annual Review**: An annual selection tournament or ranking review to assess players across each category.
- **Tournament Participation**: Priority is given to players who actively participate in local and regional tournaments.
- **Rating Review**: Use Chess SA and FIDE ratings as a reference.
- **Discretionary Selection**: The selection committee may consider special cases to promote diversity and inclusion.
- **Announcement of Teams**: Selected teams will be announced at least 4 weeks before any major competition.
- **6. Appeals Process**
- Any player who feels overlooked may submit a written appeal within 7 days of team announcements.
- Appeals will be reviewed by an independent subcommittee of the Gert Sibande Chess Association.

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7. <u>Code of Conduct</u>

All selected players must adhere to the association's code of conduct, including sportsmanship, attendance, and respect for coaches, team-mates, and opponents.

This selection policy aims to be inclusive while ensuring the highest level of representation for Gert Sibande Chess Association across all categories. The policy should be reviewed periodically and revised as necessary.

Signed off by_____ Date: **25 February 2025**

President

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