

# Operating Procedure Selection Criteria

CHESS SCOTLAND

# Selection Criteria – Chess Scotland

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# Selection Criteria – Chess Scotland

## 1. Introduction

Chess Scotland recognise the advantage of international competition and endeavour to support international events in the interest of raising the level of chess knowledge in the Scottish chess community and help develop sporting and cultural exchange among both adult and junior members.

It is the International Director's responsibility to determine which international events will be supported by Chess Scotland in the forthcoming season and post these dates on the Chess Scotland web site at the earliest opportunity. However, these dates may be subject to change by the host Organiser and/or FIDE.

To allow sufficient time for players to prepare for each event, invited players will notified, wherever possible, after completion of the player selection process at the earliest available opportunity.

The following reference documents apply to Chess Scotland and throughout

- Chess Scotland Constitution – Section 16
- Job Description – International Director
- Job Description – International Junior Director
- How to get a FIDE ID (FIN)

# Selection Criteria – Chess Scotland

## 2. Eligibility for National Representation

Eligibility for national representation is set out as part of Chess Scotland Constitution Section 16 (see above). These considerations form the principle of harmonisation, as judged by the award of FIDE-registered SCO status through Chess Scotland, required to represent Scotland at full International level for both adult and junior events.

These rules apply to

- 2.1. Eligibility for National Individual Championship Titles
- 2.2. International representation in official FIDE and ECU competitions in a Scotland national team or as a player representing Scotland in an international individual event.

Of course, anyone who qualifies under these considerations would then be subject to the selection processes whereby national teams are selected from the pool of eligible players.

## 3. Classes of Representation

Chess Scotland recognise three distinct levels. The eligibility requirements for which are defined under the Chess Scotland Constitution shall apply to both adults and juniors.

- 3.1. International team events
- 3.2. International selection for individual FIDE or ECU titles
- 3.3. National domestic titles (played within the format of the Scottish Championships) including these below, but other titles may also apply,
  - Scottish Champion (male and female)
  - Senior Champion(s)
  - Junior Champion titles, included age categories and/or gender where applicable

## 4. Code of Conduct

Participation in any event, both adult and junior, is subject to the player, or parent or any other accompanying person agreeing to any applicable Chess Scotland code of conduct, which covers teamwork and personal behavioural requirements.

Chess Scotland will not permit, at any time solicitation on behalf of players, or any third party in the determination of the selection process.

The relevant International Director, who chairs the selection panel will have overriding authority. If necessary any issues arising may be referred to the Executive Director should any arbitration be required.

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## 5. Selection Criteria - Adult

### Reference – Job Description - International Director

The International Director will seek to ensure that all selections are made in the best interests of Chess Scotland. A selection committee, under the chairmanship of the International Director, will establish the composition of team(s) and select individuals to represent Chess Scotland. The selection committee will be anonymous (but known to the Chess Scotland President).

Both algorithm-based and/or principle-based rules may be used for the selection process, to give guidance to the selection committee whilst allowing it reasonable flexibility to choose the best team(s). Selection committees will act on the best information available to them at the time of selection.

#### **Principles for selection are:**

- 5.1. All players must have a SCO badge as their FIDE designation.
- 5.2. Only current paid-up Chess Scotland members can be considered for selection
- 5.3. All players under consideration must be current paid-up members of Chess Scotland, and this must cover the period of the tournament for which they are selected.
- 5.4. Current playing strength is the key factor for selection.

The selection committee may consider a number of indicators of strength in reaching decisions. These may include but not limited to:

- 5.4. Known grades: primarily FIDE, then Scottish, then others.
- 5.5. Activity: both international and domestic; although no minimum number games have been set, it is expected of our international representatives that they be 'match-fit' for international events for which they are selected.
- 5.6. Recent trends in results: recent gains in playing strength may be looked upon favourably when deciding between otherwise 'equal' players.
- 5.7. Achievements: such as winning titles or championships and achieving norms, which stand out from a player's other results, or other players results.
- 5.8. Level of opposition faced: good results against stronger opposition may be looked upon favourably when deciding between otherwise 'equal' players.

However, establishing current strength is not an exact science and the weightings given to any factor are at the discretion of the committee. It is expected that the selection committee will exercise fairness and best judgement in making decisions.

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## 6. Selection Criteria - Junior

### Reference – Job Description – International Junior Director

Chess Scotland recognise the advantage of junior international competition and endeavour to support international events in the interest of raising the level of chess knowledge and developing sporting and cultural exchange among its junior members.

The International Junior Director and an appointed group of chess selectors (who will remain anonymous but known to the Chess Scotland President) will determine which junior international events will be supported by Chess Scotland in the forthcoming season and post these dates on the Chess Scotland web site at the earliest opportunity. It should be noted that these dates may be subject to change by the host Organiser and/or FIDE.

To allow sufficient time for players to prepare for each event, invitations will be distributed, wherever possible, immediately after completion of the player selection process held during the first quarter of the calendar year. Examples of the events covered include individual age titles run by FIDE and ECU and international-level tournaments e.g. the Glorney Cup and associated competitions.

Scottish Junior selections will be determined by the Chess Scotland Junior Selectors using the following criteria:

- 6.1. A player's eligibility to represent Chess Scotland at junior international events.
- 6.2. A player's chess playing strength.
- 6.3. A player's capability to compete in international junior competition.
- 6.4. The pertinent criteria for selection are not difficult to identify:  
standard of play, activity and eligibility (age, gender, nationality, membership).
- 6.5. Quantity and quality of activity are key inputs to ensure the reliability of grading. In order to be considered for selection a player must have completed a minimum number of graded games over the prior 12 months, as decided by the Selectors prior to an event.
- 6.6. A player may additionally be required to have competed in either a FIDE rated event or a Chess Scotland event so that a variety of opponents and styles can be taken into consideration.

The Junior Director or International Junior Director may withdraw a player's tournament registration at any time and decline to invite players or parents to future championships whom the Head of Delegation reports for behaviour detrimental to good teamwork or other material breaches.

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### 7. Junior Invitational events

Many of the selection characteristics are taken into consideration but Chess Scotland is also looking to expand the experience of the wider chess playing community and that may mean some of the higher rated players are occasionally not extended an invitation. Chess Scotland uses invitational events, particularly with juniors, to include some of those at the lower range of the age brackets as an opportunity to assess potential and as a team building exercise.

For such events players must comply with at least one of the Eligibility requirements (see Constitution Section 16) and be fully paid-up members of Chess Scotland for the duration of the tournament. If not already badged as SCO then the FIDE registration will be made by a CS official after the relevant information has been received either from the player or from the parent/guardian for a player under 16 years of age.

For invitational events (e.g. the Junior Quadrangular Tournament), the International Junior Director, in collaboration with selectors of a particular event, may relax requirements for juniors at the lower age levels in order to gain relevant experience.

Invitations, or the lack of, to these such events will not be considered as an indication of future international selection.

The same more relaxed eligibility rules apply for shorter time control tournaments (less than 60 min per player per game) with a national title e.g. Scottish Girls, Primary Individual for example.

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## 8. General Information

8.1. For juniors, the selectors will primarily use a player's Chess Scotland congress performances, as the benchmark for international selection. When a player's congress results are not available all formats and standards of games played can be used to establish a player's playing strength. An overall assessment of a player's performance during the twelve months preceding selection can be used.

8.2. Assessment of a player's international competitiveness can be made by comparing the players playing strength against historical performances at previous international events by Scottish players of similar age, gender and playing strength.

**Players (both adult and junior) who wish to be considered for selection are responsible for ensuring:**

8.3. That their membership to Chess Scotland is up to date and valid for the duration of the event (all players who represent Chess Scotland must be members).

8.4. That contact details (address, telephone, email) are current. (please inform the membership secretary of changes).

8.5. That all outside Scotland rating results are submitted each season and the Chief Grader is advised of any inaccuracies in either their Scottish or FIDE grades.

## 9. Invitations Are A Privilege, Not A Right!

Chess Scotland invitations are a privilege, not a right afforded to any player by virtue of his or her status as a Chess Scotland member.

9.1. Chess Scotland reserves the right to withhold invitations to any specific event, or to change these criteria without prior notice and to withdraw any participant or an entire team in the interest of health, safety or as a consequence of misconduct.

9.2. Please note that if a player does not respond to invitations by the time appointed on the invitation letter, that player may lose the privilege of selection.