



MALTA CHESS FEDERATION

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NATIONAL TEAM SELECTION POLICY FOR THE 7TH EUROPEAN SMALL NATIONS TEAM CHAMPIONSHIP 2021

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Scope

The scope of this national team selection policy is limited to the Malta team at the 7th European Small Nations Team Championship 2021 tentatively scheduled to be held on 27 November to 5 December 2021 in Malta.

The selection policy is based on that used for the 43rd World Chess Olympiad 2018. Other than for some minor adjustments, the key changes from the 2018 policy are consequential to the worldwide reduction in FIDE rated tournaments due to the COVID-19 pandemic and are as follows:

- The observation period is extended from twelve months to twenty-four months; and
- Half of the ranking points will be based on a Simple Average Active Rating instead of a Weighted Average Active Rating (equivalent to using equal weights for each of the monthly ratings).

The extended period coincides with the temporary extension being applied to the definition of inactivity as announced by FIDE on 2 November 2020:

WHEREAS, since the onset of the Covid-19 pandemic, it has been possible for only a reduced number of FIDE rated tournaments to take place. As a result, it is likely that many players who would under normal conditions be playing rated games will find that they are unable to do so and will therefore be marked as inactive.

The FIDE Council has considered this problem and has decided on the advice of the Qualification Commission (QC) that, from the November 2020 list UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE, the period specified in the definition of inactivity will be increased from 12 months to 24 months.

Since the selection policy for the open team is a significant departure from that used prior to 2018, it may become apparent that further adjustments are necessary. The Council reserves the option of carrying out such adjustments, though it shall endeavour to carry out only the minimum adjustments necessary.

Objective

The **primary objective** of the team selection is to send the best representative national team to the relevant event. Secondary objectives may be considered in the selection (such as developing promising players).

Selection policy

The selection of the open team shall be made by the Council in order to achieve the **primary objective**. The selection shall be based on the **selection criteria**, restricted to players who satisfy the **eligibility criteria** and who are willing to accept the **selection conditions**.

The Council may opt for a different selection than this for *bona fide* reasons (team dynamics, development potential, etc.). The playing or non-playing Captain and/or Head of Delegation will be chosen by the Council at its sole discretion, and the board order will be determined by the Council on the recommendation of the Captain.

Selection criteria

1. The national champion as at the Selection Date is selected automatically.
2. The remaining players are selected based on:
 - a. the highest achieved Ranking Points
 - b. followed by the Tiebreak if necessary;All as per the twenty-four monthly FIDE rating lists of 1 November 2019 to 1 October 2021.

Selection Date = 1 October 2021

Ranking Points = Simple Average Active Rating + Overall Performance Rating

rounded to the nearest integer (≥ 5 rounds upwards, < 5 rounds down)

Tiebreak = the higher number of FIDE standard rated games played

Simple Average Active Rating: One average amount determined by weighting each relevant monthly rating list equally. Therefore, each monthly rating will have a weight of $1/24^{\text{th}}$. For any monthly rating list in which a player is unrated, inactive or provisionally rated (as determined by FIDE for such rating list), a hypothetical rating of 1000 is used.

For avoidance of doubt, where a player was deemed inactive during 2020 and was reactivated with the 1 November 2020 as a result of FIDE's temporary change in the definition of inactive, a hypothetical rating of 1000 will still be used for the monthly lists before 1 November 2020 in which he was listed as inactive.

Furthermore, should FIDE further update the definition of inactive, the definition as updated and applied in the respective monthly rating lists will be used for calculation of the average rating, but the observation period will not be altered from 1 November 2019 to 1 October 2021.

Overall Performance Rating: One amount being the player's performance rating calculated using the aggregation of the rating parameters utilized by FIDE in its rating calculations for all the player's standard rated games included in the twenty-four monthly FIDE rating lists. Therefore, the opponent ratings, rating difference cap, tournament rating for unrated players in a round robin, etc., are those applied at the individual tournament level by FIDE.

The performance rating is calculated in accordance with FIDE regulations, as follows:

Performance = Average rating of opponents + expected rating difference derived from the percentage score (according to table 8.1a of FIDE Rating Regulations B.02)

E.g., a player who scored 40 points out of 60 rated games against an average opponent rating of 2100 (as adjusted by FIDE for large rating differences, unrated players, etc.) had a performance of 2233, i.e. 2100 plus $f(68\%) \rightarrow +133$.

The data used for the calculation shall be extracted from the tournament reports on the FIDE Ratings portal. For avoidance of doubt, hybrid games will be included in the calculation if, and only if, they are rated by FIDE in the standard rating list.

Eligibility criteria

All players (including the national champion) must satisfy all of the following criteria to be eligible for selection:

1. Must be a paid-up member of the Malta Chess Federation for the financial year 2020/21 who is in good standing with both FIDE and the MCF.
2. Must be eligible to play in the Malta national chess championship cycle of 2021.
3. Must be registered with FIDE under the Maltese flag (MLT) or be eligible for initial FIDE registration under such flag at the Selection Date.

All players except the national champion at the Selection Date must also satisfy all of the following additional criteria to be eligible for selection:

4. Must have a minimum of 20 FIDE standard rated games included in the last twenty-four monthly FIDE rating lists at the Selection Date (same figure as that used as the tiebreak)
5. Must have a minimum simple average rating of 1700 in the last twenty-four monthly FIDE rating lists at the Selection Date (same figure as that used in calculating the ranking points)

The Council may exceptionally waive one or more eligibility requirements for *bona fide* reasons.

Selection conditions

1. Players may be required to send a deposit to the MCF confirming their availability and acceptance by the date given in the invitation to the event. In the event a player withdraws for any reason, the deposit and other funds received will not normally be returned.
2. There is an expectation that all players will actively prepare for the event during the month before the event commences.
3. Participation in any event is subject to the player and any other accompanying person agreeing to the applicable FIDE, and if applicable the MCF, code(s) of conduct.
4. The Council may withdraw a player's tournament registration at any time and decline to invite players to future championships whom the Head of Delegation reports for behaviour detrimental to good teamwork or other material breaches.
5. In general, players are responsible for their own and any accompanying persons' travel. Travellers should arrange for their own private travel insurance.
6. Selection criteria and procedures in this policy are predicated on traditional rules and arrangements for the particular events, many of which are beyond the MCF's control. The MCF reserves the right to change selection criteria without notice, to not issue any invitations for any particular event and to withdraw any participant or an entire team in the interest of health, safety, or as a consequence of misconduct. The Council reserves the right to limit the size of a delegation and numbers of players invited in each section. Invitations are a privilege, not afforded by virtue of a player's status as a MCF member.
7. The MCF will finance the following: FIDE/ECU/ESNA fees; team and player registration fees; fees for direct awards of FIDE titles; cost of team uniforms/kits; and rating fees.
8. Individual medals/trophies will be kept by the relevant player. Team medals/trophies will be kept by each player if a medal is given to at least each team player, with an appropriate memento manufactured by the MCF for the remaining team members and any overall team medals/trophies kept by the MCF; otherwise, team medal/s will be kept by the MCF and an appropriate memento manufactured for all team members.

Example calculation

As an example of the resultant rankings (and application of the eligibility criteria), a demo interim calculation for a hypothetical selection date of 1 February 2021 and a sixteen-month performance measurement range (applicable rating lists of 1 November 2019 to 1 February 2021) is attached. This calculation is for demonstration purposes only.

IDcode	Name	Fed	S	B-Y	Eligibility criteria					Selection			Overall Performance Rating						Weights: Average Rating	
					1	2	3	4	5	Score	Elig	SR	Rc*N	Rc	W	N	Perf	PRa	SDWA	RRa
727067	Novak, Attila Robert	MLT	M	1984	✓	✗	✓	✓	✓	4429	✗	-	36678	1834	18.5	20	2256	1	2173	1
5600189	Pace, Colin	MLT	M	1979	✓	✓	✓	✗	✓	4298	✗	-	39441	2076	11.5	19	2156	2	2143	2
5600618	Zerafa, Robert	MLT	M	1989	✗	✓	✓	✗	✓	4242	✗	-	24348	2029	7.5	12	2124	3	2118	3
5601061	Darmanin, Jake	MLT	M	1994	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	4162	✓	1	51290	1900	20	27	2084	4	2078	4
5600197	Cilia Vincenti, David	MLT	M	1977	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	4154	✓	2	103119	1983	33	52	2078	6	2076	5
26042380	Attard, Leopold	MLT	M	2001	✗	✗	✓	✗	✓	4093	✗	-	9204	1841	4	5	2081	5	2012	9
5400120	Unger, Manfred	MLT	M	1963	✗	✓	✓	✗	✓	4044	✗	-	14448	2064	3	7	2014	7	2030	7
5600928	Petterson, Alexander	MLT	M	1982	✗	✗	✓	✓	✓	4002	✗	-	117431	2025	26	58	1989	8	2014	8
5600243	Vella, Duncan	MLT	M	1971	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	3966	✓	3	67312	1923	20.5	35	1988	9	1977	11
5600359	Psaila, Clarence	MLT	M	1984	✗	✓	✓	✓	✓	3947	✗	-	64710	1903	20.5	34	1975	10	1972	12
5600375	Zerafa, Patrick	MLT	M	1988	✗	✓	✓	✗	✓	3906	✗	-	33668	1980	8	17	1959	11	1947	13
5600740	Beulertz, Stefan	MLT	M	?	✗	✗	✓	✓	✓	3890	✗	-	58239	1879	16.5	31	1900	13	1990	10
5600200	Sammut Briffa, Peter	MLT	M	1964	✓	✓	✓	✗	✓	3836	✗	-	16362	1818	5.5	9	1898	14	1938	14
5600405	Said, Oliver	MLT	M	1985	✗	✓	✓	✓	✗	3806	✗	-	15152	1894	4	8	1894	15	1912	15
5602521	Mizzi, Jack	MLT	M	2006	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	3790	✓	4	74215	1903	19.5	39	1903	12	1887	18
5600502	Caruana Pulpan, Oana	MLT	F	1978	✗	✓	✓	✗	✓	3783	✗	-	10542	1757	4	6	1882	16	1901	17
5601460	Alexa, Cosmin	MLT	M	2000	✗	✓	✓	✓	✓	3775	✗	-	43198	1800	14.5	24	1872	17	1903	16
5600022	Lauri, Joseph	MLT	M	1955	✗	✓	✓	✗	✓	3743	✗	-	8720	1744	2	5	1672	32	2071	6
5602165	Fleri, Matthew	MLT	M	2007	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	3691	✓	5	79550	1808	24.5	44	1851	19	1840	20
5602386	Lombard, Olivier	MLT	M	1985	✗	✓	✓	✓	✓	3679	✗	-	53366	1721	19.5	31	1816	21	1862	19
5600391	Stefanovic, Bora	MLT	M	?	✗	✓	✓	✓	✓	3665	✗	-	39492	1717	15.5	23	1842	20	1823	21
5602947	Thake, Conrad	MLT	M	1963	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	3665	✓	6	40748	1940	8	21	1853	18	1812	22
5600030	Richards, John	MLT	M	1966	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	3524	✓	7	64044	1779	18	36	1779	22	1745	26
5600731	Psaila, Mario	MLT	M	1956	✗	✓	✓	✓	✓	3505	✗	-	54846	1769	14	31	1733	25	1772	25
5601452	Gatt, Matthias	MLT	M	2003	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	3502	✓	8	37164	1616	16	23	1765	23	1737	27
5600421	Jovanovic, Misa	MLT	M	?	✗	✗	✓	✗	✓	3498	✗	-	11058	1843	2	6	1718	27	1780	23
5600464	Thornton, Filipina	MLT	F	1977	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	3479	✓	9	55705	1688	19.5	33	1753	24	1726	28
5601150	Comtesse, Andreas	MLT	M	1976	✗	✓	✓	✗	✓	3468	✗	-	8475	1695	2.5	5	1695	29	1773	24
5600596	Ibrahim, Ayman	MLT	M	1966	✗	✓	✓	✗	✗	3417	✗	-	27278	1705	8.5	16	1726	26	1692	31
5601894	Baker, John	MLT	M	1948	✗	✓	✓	✗	✓	3412	✗	-	24221	1730	6.5	14	1701	28	1711	29
5602254	Stagno, Matteo	MLT	M	2005	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	3394	✓	10	77634	1652	26	47	1688	30	1706	30
5600480	Saliba, Luke	MLT	M	?	✗	✓	✓	✓	✗	3354	✗	-	33718	1686	10	20	1686	31	1668	32
5602173	Fleri, Luke	MLT	M	2007	✓	✓	✓	✓	✗	3311	✗	-	79125	1684	21	47	1648	33	1664	33