



MALTA CHESS FEDERATION

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NATIONAL TEAM SELECTION POLICY FOR THE 45TH WORLD CHESS OLYMPIAD 2022

Scope

The scope of this national team selection policy is limited to the Malta open and women's team at the main event of the 45th World Chess Olympiad scheduled to be held on 26 July to 8 August 2022 in Moscow, Russia. Malta has not been invited to play at the 1st Competition for the Disabled in Khanty-Mansiysk, Russia.

The selection policy is based on that used for the 7th European Small Nations Team Championship 2021. The key changes are as follows:

- The minimum number of FIDE standard rated games during the observation period has been reduced from 20 to 10.
- Where a player has played less than 20 games during the observation period, a second adjusted performance rating will be calculated by adding virtual drawn games against opposition rated as the player's average rating until 20 total games (actual + virtual) are reached. The performance score will be the lower of the actual performance rating and the adjusted performance rating.
- Should the fifth highest ranked eligible player have a FIDE standard rating of less than 2000, the MCF Council may choose to select the Junior Champion at time of selection, or any other junior player, in his stead for the reserve board.

The Council reserves the option of carrying out further 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 teams shall be made by the Council in order to achieve the **primary objective**. The selection shall be based on the relevant **selection criteria**, restricted to players who satisfy the relevant **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/s 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/s.

Open team 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 May 2020 to 1 April 2022.

Should the fifth eligible player for selection have a FIDE standard rating of less than 2000 on the 1 April 2022 rating list, the MCF Council may choose to select the (U20) Junior Champion at time of selection, or any other (U20) junior player, in his stead for the reserve board.

Selection Date = 1 April 2022

Ranking Points = Simple Average Active Rating + Overall Performance Rating

rounded to the nearest integer ($\geq .5$ 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 $\frac{1}{24}^{\text{th}}$. 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 May 2020 to 1 April 2022.

Overall Performance Rating: One amount being the player's performance rating calculated using the aggregation of the rating parameters utilised 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 $f(68\%) + 133$.

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.

Where a player has played less than **20 games** during the observation period, a second adjusted performance rating will be calculated by adding virtual drawn games against opposition rated as the player's average rating until 20 total games (actual + virtual) are reached. The performance score will be the lower of the actual performance rating and the adjusted performance rating.

Open team 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 2021/22 who is in good standing with both FIDE and the MCF.
2. Must be eligible to play in the Malta national chess championships cycle of 2022.
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 **ten (10)** 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.

Women's team selection criteria

The women's team shall be selected on the basis of the highest FIDE standard rating on the 1 April 2022 rating list.

Women's team eligibility criteria

All players must satisfy all of the following criteria to be eligible for selection for the women's team:

1. Must be a paid-up member of the Malta Chess Federation for the financial year 2021/22 who is in good standing with both FIDE and the MCF.
2. Must be registered with FIDE under the Maltese flag (MLT) or be eligible for initial FIDE registration under such flag at the Selection Date.

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. The Council shall be making travel arrangements for the team. Any team members travelling making their own travel arrangements shall not be eligible for any financial assistance granted to the team.
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 achieved at the event; 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.