



# **MALTA CHESS FEDERATION**

**MCF PREMISES, HANDAQ MIDDLE SCHOOL,  
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***MEMORANDUM  
AND  
ARTICLES OF ASSOCIATION  
17 February 2024***

# **MEMORANDUM OF FEDERATION OF THE MALTA CHESS FEDERATION**

1. The name of the Federation is: “*Malta Chess Federation*” in English or “*Il-Federazzjoni Maltija taċ-Ċess*” in Maltese.
2. The objects and activities for which the Federation is established are:
  - (a) To safeguard and further the interest of chess within the Maltese Islands, as well as the interests of its members;
  - (b) To provide an organisation for the promotion and participation of chess in all related existing and future activities, competitions and seminars within the Maltese Islands and internationally;
  - (c) To disseminate useful and instructive articles and ideas with respect to chess education.
  - (d) To raise funds by means of subscription of members or otherwise for all the purposes and objects of the Federation in such amounts and in such manner as may be authorised by the Federation;
  - (e) To do all such other lawful things as are incidental or conducive to the attainment of the above objects.
3. The Federation is an independent non-profit making Federation. The income and property of the Federation shall only be applied to promote the objects of the Federation. Members shall receive no dividend, or bonus, or any other kind of profit, directly or indirectly, from the Federation. However, nothing herein shall prevent the payment, in good faith, of remuneration to any member, or to any servant, or officer of the Federation, or to any other person, for services actually rendered to the Federation. If any Member of the Federation pays or received any dividend, or bonus, or any other profit in contravention of this stipulation their liability shall be unlimited.
4. The Federation is the only organisation in the Maltese Islands who has the right to organise the national Chess Championships, in all forms including competitions on the internet and regarding variations to the traditional game of chess (as Fischer random – chess960, blindfold chess, bughouse chess, etc.), and who can award national titles to its members. It has the right to sanction regulations to achieve these objectives and apply them accordingly.
5. The Federation is the organisation which has principal authority over chess activities in the country and territories of the Republic of Malta as recognised by the United Nations and the International Olympic Committee, and it is the only organisation which is and may be so admitted, and affiliated as a member federation, to the Fédération Internationale des Échecs (FIDE).
6. The Federation is a Sports Organisation governed by the Sports Act - Cap. 455 of the Laws of Malta ('the Sports Act') and duly registered on the Register of Sports Organisations maintained by SportMalta in terms of Part VII of the same Sports Act with registration number SM/A134. Furthermore, the Federation is a Voluntary Organisation under the Voluntary Organisation Act - Cap. 492 of the Laws of Malta ('the VO Act') and voluntarily enrolled with the Office of the Commissioner for Voluntary Organisations in accordance with article 12A of the VO Act under the Sports Activities classification with identification number VO/2287.
7. In the event of a dissolution or of a winding up of the Federation, any surplus property, after the payment of all debts and liabilities shall be transferred to the *Fédération Internationale des Échecs (FIDE)* or to whatever officially recognised charitable institution the last council in office deems appropriate.
8. The official languages of the Federation are Maltese and English. However, in documents relating to the statute containing different versions in more than one language, the English version is final.

# **ARTICLES OF ASSOCIATION OF THE MALTA CHESS FEDERATION**

## **NAME, CONSTITUTION AND INTERPRETATION**

1. The name of the association is 'Malta Chess Federation'. It is hereinafter called the 'Federation' or by its acronym 'MCF'.
2. The registered office of the Federation is:  
Malta Chess Federation  
MCF Premises  
Handaq Middle School  
St Ignatius College  
Tal-Handaq l/o Qormi  
QRM 4001  
Malta  
  
or such other place as may be determined from time to time by the Council.
3. The Federation is established for the objects and activities stated in the 'Memorandum of Association'.
4. In these Articles, unless inconsistent with the subject or context:
  - (a) words importing the singular include the plural, and vice-versa;
  - (b) words importing the masculine gender include the feminine, neutral and other genders, and vice-versa;
  - (c) the word person includes moral entities having a separate legal personality;
  - (d) meetings, shows of hands, votes and ballots include physical, virtual or hybrid forms thereof.

## **MEMBERSHIP**

5.
  - (a) The MCF shall consist of members who, having accepted the objects and activities for which the association is established, shall have been admitted to membership as hereinafter provided. Certificates of membership may be issued under such terms and conditions as may be established by the Council.
  - (b) Every individual who is resident in Malta or has Maltese citizenship may become a member of the MCF.
  - (c) MCF may nominate individuals who have distinguished themselves in the game of chess, directly or indirectly, to become Honorary Life Members of the MCF.
6. Members have equal rights to vote during a General Meeting subject to the requirements of these Articles (see Articles 37 to 39). However, participation in FIDE events or in other events of organisations with which the Malta Chess Federation is affiliated will also be subject to the regulations of those organisations. (See Appendix 1 for Affiliations).
7. Applications for membership shall be made on the appropriate form of the Federation, as laid down by the Council from time to time. Applicants shall have to satisfy the Council as to their qualifications, and undertake to be bound by the Memorandum and the Articles of Federation and abide by any bye-laws or regulations which the MCF may issue from time to time including its Policy for Safeguarding of Children, Young People and Vulnerable Adults and its Code of Ethics, and acknowledge that all members of the *FIDE family*, as defined in the FIDE Ethics & Disciplinary Code, shall be subject to such code.

8. The Council shall have the right to allow or refuse membership to any applicant and it shall not be bound to give any reasons for its decision. However, any candidate whose application is not entertained may delegate a member to plead their case at a General Meeting which shall have the right to reverse the Council's decision. A candidate who is rejected by the Council and the General Meeting may be proposed again only after the lapse of one year.
9. The Council may for a just cause terminate the membership of any member. In cases of alleged grave breach of the Federation's Code of Ethics, the Council, before taking a decision, shall refer the matter to an Ethics Committee, consisting of a Council member and two members of the Federation appointed by the Council. If the Committee reports against the member, the Council shall have the right to terminate membership. In any case, before the Council takes its final decision, the member shall be given the opportunity to submit their defence in writing to the Council. The termination of membership by the Council shall be subject to appeal to a General Meeting of the Federation, provided that the member affected by the Council's decision shall exercise their right of appeal in writing not later than thirty days from the date on which that member is effectively served with the Council's decision. The member's appeal shall be addressed to the President of the Federation.
10.
  - (a) The Council may terminate the membership of any member whose subscription is in arrears by more than 2 months.
  - (b) The Council may suspend the membership of any member whose subscription is in arrears by more than 2 months. While suspended the member shall not enjoy any of the rights and benefits available to members, including voting rights at General Meetings, representing the Federation in the events of affiliated organisations, and receipt of tournament reports and game records.
  - (c) A member shall cease *ipso facto* to be a member if their subscription is in arrears by more than six months.
  - (d) Any member may terminate their membership by giving notice in writing to the President. They shall forfeit the subscription, if already paid.

## **THE COUNCIL**

11.
  - (a) The business of the Federation shall be managed by a Council which shall generally consist of six to eight members.
  - (b) Council members shall be elected every four years, from and by the members.
  - (c) The Council shall have at least two representatives of male and female gender where possible.
  - (d) In an election, should the first six members be of the same gender, the next two elected members shall be from the other gender (according to their votes) irrespective to the general voting results.
  - (e) The Council may coopt to the Council, for periods as may be determined by the MCF Council, a representative of any Chess Academy running at any educational College on the Maltese Islands after assuring itself that the said Academy is providing proper chess training classes to its students. For each such case, the Council shall determine on a continuing basis the extent of any observation and voting rights afforded to the representative. Such representative shall be bound by the same requirements applicable to other Council members.
  - (f) The Council may coopt to the Council any person who proves to be valid to the Council for periods as may be determined by the MCF Council. For each such case, the Council shall determine on a continuing basis the extent of any observation and voting rights afforded to the person. Such person shall be bound by the same requirements applicable to other Council members.
  - (g) The current composition of the Council is as indicated in Appendix 4. The Council may update Appendix 4 to reflect any changes in the Council in accordance with this Statute – including any resignations or other vacancy, cooptions under Article 23(c), and replacements under Article 24 – without convening a General Meeting.

12. It shall be the responsibility of the Council to manage the Federation in accordance with the provisions contained in the Memorandum and Articles of Federation. The Council shall endeavour to:
- (a) organise the national championship cycle for men, women and juniors; comprehensive regulations for the respective Championship cycles shall be prepared and circulated to all members by 31 January of each year (Appendix 2);
  - (b) select any representative/s to participate in events held by associations or organisations to which the MCF is affiliated (Appendix 3).
  - (c) affiliate or otherwise associate the Federation to international organisations having similar or complementary objects;
  - (d) establish a Policy for Safeguarding Children, Young People and Vulnerable Adults and a Code of Ethics for members, as bye-laws of the Federation binding all members and to promote its observance by the members as a whole;
  - (e) establish and amend as necessary bye-laws for the routine day-to-day operation of the Federation;
  - (f) borrow, secure and raise money by the issue of debentures or debentures stock, or other security as approved by a General Meeting, if and as necessary, provided that the Council may borrow up to a maximum of Euros 3,000 without recourse to a General Meeting;
  - (g) invest the funds of the Federation and deal with its assets to the best advantage;
  - (h) carry out all such other activities as may be incidental or conducive to the attainment of the objects of the Federation.

Provided that if for any reason one or more of the above sub-articles were not carried out during a financial year, the Council shall report such fact and the reasons for this at the Annual General Meeting immediately following such financial year.

13. Subject to the provisions of Clause 3 of the Memorandum of Federation of the Federation, members of the Council shall hold office in an honorary capacity and shall not be personally responsible for any liability lawfully incurred by the Federation, which is a non-profit organisation.
- 14.
- (a) The Council can take and agree decisions by letter or electronic means if no Council member demands a meeting. The President will determine whether to call a Council meeting or in their absence the Vice President. Minutes of the discussions and final decisions will be made in all cases.
  - (b) Four Council members shall form a quorum.
15. The President shall be bound to convene special meetings of the Council if so requested by at least three Council members. In their request, which shall be in writing, the said members shall state the object for the convening of the meeting. The meeting shall be called and held by not later than one month from receipt of the request.
16. Unless otherwise stated, all Council decisions shall be passed by a simple majority of votes.
17. The application by the Council of any disciplinary measure against any member or representative shall require the approval of not less than five eighths elected members of the Council.
18. Only members attending and eligible to vote at the Annual General Meeting shall have the right to vote for the Election of the Council held at such Annual General Meeting.
19. Any member entitled to vote for the Election of the Council shall have the right to propose or to second for election to the Council any number of eligible candidates who have accepted to run in the election.
20. Eligible candidates for the election to the Council shall be individual members who have been members at least since the beginning of the financial year immediately preceding the election. For the avoidance of doubt, if the AGM is held during the calendar year X, the beginning of the financial year would be January of the calendar year X-1.

However, any person who:

- a) is a *registered person* in accordance with the Protection of Minors (Registration) Act, Chapter 518 of the Laws of Malta, or
- b) has otherwise been convicted by a foreign court of acts of *sexual exploitation or sexual abuse of children* as defined by the Council of Europe Convention on the Protection of Children Against Sexual Exploitation and Sexual Abuse (also known as the Lanzarote Convention); or
- c) has an unspent conviction for fraud, theft or another relevant offence,

shall be ineligible for election to the Council.

Prior to the election, any person running for election shall provide a self-declaration that they are an eligible candidate, that they accept to run in the election, and that they undertake that should they be newly elected to the Council they will (i) promptly furnish to the Council a police conduct certificate issued in terms of the Conduct Certificates Ordinance, Chapter 77 of the Laws of Malta, that is not older than six months for scrutiny and submission to relevant authorities, and (ii) consent to a facultative credit check or screening. Should the elected person fail to provide the police conduct certificate or should it transpire that their self-declaration was untrue, their election to the Council shall be voided.

21. The Election for the Council shall take place as the final item of proceedings of the Annual General Meeting which immediately follows every fourth financial year. Members of the Council will therefore be elected for the four-year period between Elections. Nomination papers, obtainable from the Federation, should be completed and submitted to the Federation by the end of the financial year immediately preceding the relevant Election. A list of the nominated candidates shall be included with the notice sent to all members convening the Annual General Meeting at the end of which the election is meant to take place.
22. The Council shall select two scrutineers from amongst the Members to act as Election officials. The scrutineers shall ensure that all people who will vote at the Election are eligible to vote.
23.
  - (a) A President, Vice President, General Secretary, Treasurer, FIDE Delegate and three Council Members shall be elected from and by the Members of the Federation at the Election.
  - (b) In the event that the number of nominated candidates for the same position on the Council is equal to or less than the number of Council seats for that position, no vote shall be required and the nominated candidates shall be deemed elected.
  - (c) In the event that the number of nominated candidates is less than required, the elected Council members may coopt by majority vote any other person or persons they deem appropriate.
  - (d) In the case of two or more candidates securing an equal number of votes for the same position on the Council, a second runoff election round between only such tied candidates shall be held to decide the election for such position. If two or more of such candidates again secure an equal number of votes in the runoff, the election for the relevant position shall be decided by the drawing of lots by the scrutineers.
24. When there is a change of President, the AGM shall approve the position of a non-voting position of Honorary President for a previous MCF President who has served at least two terms in the position of President. There may be no more than one Honorary President serving in an advisory role to the Council at any point in time.
25.
  - (a) Should a vacancy occur in the Council, the person with the next highest number of votes at the last Council election accepting the position shall within sixty days fill the vacancy for the remaining period. Should there be no such person, a call for nominations of eligible candidates to fill the vacancy may be made; provided that, should the number of Council members have fallen below six, a bye-election for the shortfall shall be held at the next General Meeting, annual or extraordinary.
  - (b) The Council may continue to act notwithstanding any vacancy.
  - (c) The Council may appoint a member amongst themselves to act as President, Vice President, General Secretary, Treasurer or FIDE Delegate for as long as a vacancy persists for such office.

- (d) Should a member of the Council at any time become a *registered person* in accordance with the Protection of Minors (Registration) Act, Chapter 518 of the Laws of Malta, be otherwise convicted by a foreign court of acts of *sexual exploitation or sexual abuse of children* as defined by the Council of Europe Convention on the Protection of Children Against Sexual Exploitation and Sexual Abuse (also known as the Lanzarote Convention), or be convicted for fraud, theft or another relevant offence, such member shall be removed from the Council with immediate effect.
26. The President shall convene, chair and preside over all General Meetings and over all meetings of the Council. The President is to ensure the strict observance of all the Articles of Association in the discussions and deliberations of all such meetings. In cases of great urgency, the President may take decisions accorded normally to the Council. Any such decision taken by the President will need to be minuted and approved by the Council at the next meeting.
27. In the absence of the President, the Vice President shall enjoy all the powers accorded to the President under these Articles of Association. In the absence of both these officers, the other Council members present shall appoint one member amongst themselves to chair the meeting.
28. The General Secretary is responsible for all administrative activities within the Council, including for keeping all the minutes of General Meetings and Council Meetings, taking care of the Federation's correspondence, requesting results from the tournament organisers of activities which are held under the auspices of the Federation, and holding a record of all events held locally. The General Secretary may appoint one or more Members from the Council to assist him in his activities.
- 29.
- (a) It shall be the duty of the Treasurer to exercise overall control over the financial administration of the Federation, to submit management accounts to the Council, to coordinate the preparation of the financial statements and to liaise with the examiner of the financial statements. The Treasurer may appoint one or more Members from the Council to assist them. The financial year of the Federation shall run from 1 January to the following 31 December (12 months) each calendar year.
- (b) The Council shall present to the Annual General Meeting the management accounts for the financial year that just ended for discussion and the examined financial statements for the preceding financial year for approval as provided in Article 33.
- (c) The Treasurer is responsible for looking after the Federation's assets in terms of property, fixtures, clocks, boards, sets, books etc.
- (d) The Treasurer is responsible for keeping an updated list of all members and subscriptions paid.
- (e) The Treasurer must obtain due authority from the Council to issue any payment of more than 250 Euro for any single activity or event.
30. The FIDE Delegate shall be responsible to:
- (a) be the official liaison between the Malta Chess Federation and FIDE;
- (b) deal with matters related to ECU;
- (c) at minimum, attend the annual FIDE Congresses if funding is available;
- (d) represent the MCF in International Committees such as but not restricted to ESNA, ECU and FIDE
31. The examiner of the Federation's financial statements shall be nominated by the Council and appointed at the Annual General Meeting in terms of Article 33. The examiner shall not be eligible for membership of the Council during their term in office. The examiner's role shall be that of ascertaining that the financial statements have been adequately prepared and that they present a true and fair view of the Federation's financial position as at the yearend and the performance during the financial year.
32. No claims for monies due to the Federation shall be abandoned without the approval of the Council. Similarly, no property shall be discarded without the consent of the Council.

33. All bank documents or instructions exceeding one thousand Euro (€1,000) shall be signed or authorised, as the case may be, by at least two of the following:
- (a) The President;
  - (b) The Vice President;
  - (c) The General Secretary;
  - (d) The Treasurer.
34. The Council may appoint a senior permanent official, on a part-time or full-time basis, who shall be responsible for the execution of policies laid down and directives given by the Council. Such person shall also be responsible for the administration of the Federation's office and activities. They shall report to the President of the Council. The Council shall also appoint any other permanent staff, as may be required from time to time, funds permitting. All permanent officials shall fulfil their duties under the overall control of the Council Members.

### **GENERAL MEETINGS**

35. The Annual General Meeting shall be held during the second calendar month immediately following the end of each financial year. The proceedings of the Annual General Meeting shall include: an Address by the President; the presentation and discussion of the MCF's management accounts for the financial year immediately preceding the Annual General Meeting, the presentation and approval of the MCF's financial statements of the previous financial year, and the appointment of the examiner for the financial statements of the next financial year. Any member shall then have the right to raise any question or to move for discussion only any motion having reference to any of the objects and activities of the Federation as defined in the Memorandum of Association. Furthermore, in accordance with Article 21, every fourth year the final item of the proceedings of the Annual General Meeting shall be the Election of the Council.
36. Extraordinary General Meetings may be held during the year at the discretion of the Council. The President shall be bound to convene an Extraordinary General Meeting if so requested by fifteen percent or more of the Members. In their request, which shall be in writing, the said Members shall state the object for the convening of the meeting. The meeting shall be called and held by not later than three months from receipt of the request.
- 37.
- (a) Members shall be given at least one month's notice of all General Meetings, annual or extraordinary. The notice shall include the agenda for the General Meeting and any motions to amend the Statute.
  - (b) Motions to amend the MCF's statute at the Annual General Meeting shall be presented in writing to the President by the end of the financial year immediately preceding the Annual General Meeting. Any motions to amend the MCF's statute shall be included in the notice of the relevant General Meeting circulated to Members.
  - (c) Other motions shall be presented in writing to the President not less than two weeks before the relevant General Meeting and shall be circulated to members not less than one week before such General Meeting. If any such other motions are presented, the agenda for the General Meeting shall be revised accordingly and circulated to Members not less than one week before the General Meeting.
  - (d) Thirty per cent of the total number of members rounded down entitled to vote shall form a quorum. If a quorum is not present at the appointed time, the Chair presiding the General Meeting shall postpone the meeting for an appropriate time following which those members present shall be considered a quorum, provided that if less than fifteen per cent of the members rounded down entitled to vote are present then no quorum shall be considered to be present. If less than fifteen per cent of the members rounded down entitled to vote are present, the meeting shall nonetheless take place, except that all motions presented, and the result of any Elections for the Council held, at such General Meeting shall require ratification at a following General Meeting. Where Elections for the Council are held without a quorum, an Extraordinary General Meeting shall be convened within three months and include a motion for members to ratify the results of the Elections, and should such motion not be carried, a rerun of the Elections for the Council shall be held at such Extraordinary General Meeting.



38. Save for anything to the contrary in these Articles, all decisions at General Meetings shall be passed by a majority of votes of those present.

### **VOTES**

- 39.
- (a) Any member who is at least 16 years old and has been a member at least since the beginning of the financial year immediately preceding the General Meeting (as explained in par. 20) will be entitled to one vote only. The other members are entitled to attend General Meetings but are not entitled to vote.
  - (b) At General Meetings votes shall be taken by show of hands.
  - (c) Notwithstanding the preceding sub-article, Elections shall be held by show of hands, or by secret ballot if so desired by at least five voters.
  - (d) Voting by post or by proxy shall not be allowed.
40. Any member shall forfeit their right to vote at General Meetings if their subscription for the immediately preceding year is in arrears at the time when such meetings are held.
41. The Chairperson of any meeting shall have an original vote and, in the case of an equality of votes, the Chairperson shall have the right to exercise a casting vote.

### **SUBSCRIPTIONS**

- 42.
- (a) The subscription fee shall be payable yearly in advance.
  - (b) The subscription payable falls due at the start of each financial year, and the structure of membership classification and annual fees shall be as determined by Council from time to time.
  - (c) Applications for membership shall not be considered unless accompanied by the subscription fee for at least one year's membership.
  - (d) If, by the time the subscription falls due, a member has not yet paid the previous year's subscription, such person shall not be entitled to benefit from reduced rates or benefits available to Federation members.
  - (e) Any member who resigns or forfeits their membership may on re-joining be required by the Council to pay a readmission fee equivalent to one year's subscription apart from the annual subscription fee.

### **COMMITTEES**

- 43.
- (a) The composition, election of officials, and terms of reference of committees shall be as established by the Council from time to time.
  - (b) The Council may appoint Executives or other Committees to deal with matters of constant recurring importance, or for any of the objects or activities referred to in Clause 3 of the Memorandum of Federation and Article 5 of these Articles. Either the President, Vice President or the General Secretary shall be an *ex officio* member on any such committee.
  - (c) Any group of Members may request the Council to elect a sectorial and other Committee from among themselves. Any such Committee will be subject to the approval of the Council. The application for the formation of such a Committee, must be signed by at least three Members of the Federation.
  - (d) When matters affecting any such Committee are discussed at any Council meeting, the President may ask for the attendance and assistance of a representative of the Committee concerned, who shall not have the right to vote thereat unless such representative is a member of the Council and therefore entitled to vote as such.
44. Any Committee shall appoint at its first meeting a chairperson by a majority of votes.
45. For the smooth working of any Committee, that Committee's chairperson shall apply all the rules pertaining to the Council. Any deviation due to any unforeseen circumstance shall be reported at once

to the Council for approval. The quorum for any committee appointed by Council shall be not less than fifty percent of the members of such Committee.

#### **ANTI-DOPING CONTROL**

46. The Federation shall abide by FIDE's Anti-Doping Rules and impose these rules to its members and players playing in Malta.
47. The Federation shall fight against the use of substances and methods prohibited by WADA or the International Sports Organisations through the adoption and implementation of the World Anti-Doping Code thereby ensuring that the anti-doping policies and rules, membership and/or funding requirements and results management procedures conform with the World Anti-Doping Code.
48. The Federation will support and be compliant with the anti-doping laws of Malta and adhere to the recommendations of FIDE and the National Anti-Doping Organisation.
49. The Federation will ensure that all players, coaches, trainers, managers and officials in a Competition or activity authorized or organized by the Federation, will agree to be bound by these Anti-Doping Rules and shall submit to the results management authority of the Anti-Doping Organisation.
50. The Federation shall report any information suggesting or relating to an anti-doping rules violation to FIDE and to the National Anti-Doping Organisations, and shall cooperate with investigations conducted by any Anti-Doping Organisation with authority to conduct the investigation.
51. The Federation shall conduct anti-doping education as necessary in coordination with the National Anti-Doping Organisation.

#### **ANTI-CHEATING REGULATIONS**

52. The Federation shall abide by FIDE's Anti-Cheating Regulations and impose these regulations to its members and for any tournaments held in Malta.
53. "Cheating" means:
  - a) the deliberate use of electronic devices or other sources of information or advice during a game; or
  - b) the manipulation of chess competitions such as, including but not limited to, result manipulation, sandbagging, match-fixing, rating fraud, false identity, and deliberate participation in fictitious tournaments or games.

#### **GENERAL**

54. In judicial proceedings the Federation shall be represented by its President, who shall be able to sue or be sued on its behalf. In the absence of the President, representation shall vest in the Vice President and then the General Secretary. In the absence of both these officers representation shall vest in the Member or Members appointed by the Council.
55. The accidental omission to give notice of any meeting to, or the non-receipt of notice by, any member shall not invalidate the proceedings at that meeting.
56. It shall be lawful by a resolution approved by a two-thirds majority of the number of Members present at any General Meeting to amend or revoke any of these Articles of Federation, or to make such other Articles in addition as to them shall seem proper.
57. The Council shall be the sole interpreter of these Articles of Federation.
58. The dissolution or winding up of the Federation shall be decided by a two-thirds majority of the members present at a General Meeting convened for the purpose. Such a decision shall be communicated within

fifteen days to all entities the Federation is affiliated with, or member of, or registered with. Any surplus funds at the time of such dissolution or winding up shall be disposed of as provided for in Clause 5 of the Memorandum of Federation of the Federation.

59. The effective date of this Statute shall run from the date of the General Meeting which approves it.
60. The provisions of this Statute shall be valid without prejudice to anything done or undone under previous Statute/s of the Federation.
61. This Statute shall not affect any appointment which has existed under the previous Statute and which has a validity period extending beyond the effective date of this Statute.

## **APPENDIX 1 – AFFILIATIONS & MEMBERSHIPS**

1. Fédération International des Échecs (FIDE)  
*also known as International Chess Federation or World Chess Federation*
2. Malta Olympic Committee (MOC)
3. SportMalta
4. European Chess Union (ECU)
5. Mediterranean Chess Association (MCA)
6. European Small Nations Chess Association (ESNA)

## APPENDIX 2 – CHAMPIONSHIP CYCLE

1. The Council shall endeavour to organise, in any year, the Open Malta Chess Championship cycle, the Women’s Malta Chess Championship and the Juniors’ Malta Chess Championship.
2. Only persons who are
  - (a) members of the Malta Chess Federation,
  - (b) registered and licensed as players with FIDE under the Maltese flag,
  - (c) are Maltese citizens (as defined in Cap. 188 of Maltese law) or who as at 1 January of that year had been ordinarily resident in Malta for a period of at least six years in the preceding eight calendar years can participate in the Open, Women’s and Juniors’ National chess championships of Malta.
 Furthermore, persons who are members of the Malta Chess Federation, and who as at the start of that calendar year (a) were aged less than 14 years, and (b) had been ordinarily resident in Malta for an aggregate period of *N minus 2* years (“**minimum residency**”) during the preceding *N* calendar years (“**lookback period**”), may also participate in the Juniors’ National chess championships of Malta.

Where N is equal to half the person’s youth/cadet age group (i.e. their age at the start of the year, rounded up to the next whole even integer), as follows:

Age group/s	Lookback period N (calendar years)	Minimum residency (years)
U20, U18, U16	8	6
U14	7	5
U12	6	4
U10	5	3
U8	4	2

3. The Open National Championship shall be held over the three phases described in paragraphs 4 to 6.
4. The first phase of the Open National Championship is the Preliminaries Tournament, and this competition shall be open to all members of the Malta Chess Federation who at the registration date either (a) have a rating of less than 1800 or such other rating threshold as may be established by the Council four weeks before start of the Preliminaries Tournament, or else (b) have no rating.

A player’s rating shall be that published in the latest standard FIDE Rating List. A player who never had a FIDE rating and used to have a national rating shall be deemed to have a rating equal to their rating in the final national active or inactive rating lists (dated 1 January 2014) until they receive their first international rating.

The six highest ranking participants of the Preliminaries Tournament qualify for the second phase if up to twenty players take part and play at least fifty percent of the rounds of the Preliminaries Tournament. If the number of such players is at least 21, then the eight highest ranked participants qualify, and the number of qualifiers shall continue increasing by a further two ranked participants with every ten additional participants (i.e., 21-30: 8 qualifiers; 31-40: 10 qualifiers; etc.).

5. The Candidates is the second phase of the Open National Championship, and this competition shall be open to all members of the Malta Chess Federation who either
  - a) had a rating equal to or exceeding the threshold used for the Preliminaries Tournament on the registration date of the Preliminaries Tournament (see point 4); or
  - b) has a rating equal to or exceeding a defined threshold, generally equivalent to that used for the Preliminaries Tournament, on the registration date of the Candidates;
  - c) qualified to the Candidates from the Preliminaries Tournament (see paragraph 4); or
  - d) placed as winner or runner-up at the previous Championship Finals tournament. Should any of the qualifiers from the Preliminaries Tournament fail to register to participate in the Candidates, then the next highest ranked participant from the Preliminaries Tournament who so accepts shall participate in the Candidates in their stead.

The four highest ranked participants of the Candidates shall qualify for the Championship Finals tournament, which will have six participants.

Should either of (or both) the winner and runner-up of the previous Championship choose to participate in the Candidates, the number of qualifiers will be increased by one (or if both participate: two) ranked participants to fulfil the complement of six players in the Final phase.

6. The Championship Finals tournament is played with a Double Round-Robin System, with each player playing twice against each other player, once with white and once with black.

The invitees to this tournament consist of:

- a) the winner of the previous Championship, unless they choose to participate in the Candidates tournament of the same year;
- b) the runner-up of the previous Championship, unless they choose to participate in the Candidates tournament of the same year; and
- c) the qualifiers from the Candidates tournament of the same Championship cycle (see paragraph 5). For avoidance of doubt, a winner or runner-up of the previous Championship who chooses to participate in the Candidates tournament (see paragraph 5) shall irrevocably forfeit their invitation to participate in the Championship Finals under (a) or (b), and will need to qualify from the Candidates in accordance with (c) and the following sub-paragraph.

Should any of these invitees fail to register to participate in the Championship Finals tournament, then the next highest ranked participant from the Candidates who so accepts shall participate in their stead. Should there not be sufficient players, the Council may then invite other players to participate according to their ranking in the Preliminaries Tournament. Should this still not be sufficient to fill the players then the Council may invite players who may not have played in the Championship cycle according to their ranking in the FIDE Rating List.

7. The event regulations for each men's championship phase and other championship shall be prepared by the Council and circulated to all members by not later than four weeks prior to the registration deadline of each respective event. These event regulations will cover the rate of play, the days of play, the rating system for the tournaments, the guaranteed prize money, the entrance fees, the tiebreak system and any other relevant conditions pertaining to the organisation of such tournaments.
8. In all cases, players must be fully paid-up members to participate in any championship event.

### **APPENDIX 3 – SELECTION CRITERIA FOR INTERNATIONAL PARTICIPATION**

The criteria used to choose the best active players to represent Malta in international competition shall be as follows:

1. To be eligible for selection, a player has to be a paid-up member of the Malta Chess Federation at the time of selection.
2. To be eligible for selection, a player should be active (be it locally or internationally) having played a number of FIDE rated games at the relevant time control(s) and within the defined period of play prior to the time of selection as stipulated in the selection criteria (see paragraph 4).
3. In the case of selection for the Olympiad Team and for the World Championship Cycle, the national champion is automatically chosen subject to them meeting the eligibility criteria in paragraphs 1 and 2 above.
4. The Junior Champion U-20 will be automatically selected to play in the highest-ranking junior tournament or any tournament of their choice that best matches their age group.
5. All other players will be selected according to selection criteria which will take into consideration the national and international rating of the players and their tournament results within a period prior to the time of selection as stipulated therein.

#### **APPENDIX 4 – CURRENT COMPOSITION OF THE COUNCIL**

<b><u>Designation</u></b>	<b><u>Surname</u></b>	<b><u>Name</u></b>	<b><u>ID/Passport No.</u></b>
President	Vella	Duncan Adrian	395088M
Vice President	Grima	Noel	23087M
General Secretary	Novák	Róbert Attila	172790A
FIDE Delegate	Borg	Geoffrey	423963M
Treasurer	Thornton	Filipina	462511L
Council Member	Sammut	Ronald	234951M
Council Member	Farrugia	Jamie	19899M
Council Member	Gatt	Matthias Timothy	272805L