

SACSSA NATIONAL CHESS POLICY - 2025

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1. SACSSA CHESS COMMITTEE

The SACSSA Chess Committee shall consist of various knowledgeable people. Regions will be requested to provide such people, should they be available in the Region. Regions may also put forward the names of more than one person. [see Addendum A]

2. AGE GROUPS

All SACSSA players [male and female separately] will be entered according to the following age groups, which are in line with all other SACSSA Age Groups:

G & B 09 **[Born 2016 & later]**
 G & B 11 **[Born 2014 & 2015]**
 G & B 13 **[Born 2012 & 2013]**
 G & B 15 **[Born 2010 & 2011]**
 G & B 17 & 19 **[Born 2006 to 2009]**

These age groups for a specific year, will be identified according to the date of birth and will be communicated by means of the updated SACSSA National Policy, as well as in specific communication regarding the Chess.

3. NOTATION

SACSSA strongly recommends that all players should be taught how to notate.

However, during the SACSSA National Tournament he/she will **not be required** to notate and will therefore **not receive a time penalty**.

4. CHESS COMPUTER PROGRAMME

All Regional Chess Tournaments as well as the SACSSA Nationals, shall use the latest version available of the Swiss Arbiter or Swiss manager computer programme.

5. REGIONAL ENTRIES

A Region is guaranteed at least **15** players per age group, for the SACSSA National Chess Championships. Of these **15** players, a Region may enter **10** boys and **5** girls per age group.

Regions are also required to supply the names of up to 5 reserve players [if available], for each of the genders. These Reserve Players may be called upon in specific age groups, where additional players are needed.

Regions that have a large number of chess players of high standard, may apply to the National Chess Committee, to be considered for more than the stipulated number of additional players.

6. ENTRY FEES

The Entry Fee for the SACSSA National Chess Tournament, shall be determined at least two months before the tournament date and will be forwarded to the Regions.

7. PAYMENT OF ENTRY FEES

Entry Fees shall be deposited, by the school, into their **Regional Account** as soon as entries for the National Tournament are finalized.

Regions will be invoiced by the SACSSA accountant, as soon as the total number of entries per school have been finalised.

8. REGIONAL RESULT FORM

The Regional Results, shall be sent to the SACSSA National Office, on the official Regional Result Form. The SACSSA National Co-ordinator shall compile the Provisional Entries, which will be returned to the Regions/Schools for checking and to confirm their entries for players and officials.

9. DUE DATE FOR REGIONAL ENTRIES

All entries for players [reserves included] and officials, shall reach the SACSSA National Office, on or before the Due Date as stipulated on the National Calendar or **First Info** letter.

As soon as the entries have been processed, the National Office, shall make additional invitations to reserve players in specific age groups as required.

10. PLANNING MEETING FOR SACSSA NATIONALS

A planning meeting between the Tournament Director, the National Co-ordinator, the Hosting School and any other available Chess Committee Members as well as any other required officials, shall be scheduled, if required, at least **14** days before the National Tournament date, at the location of the SACSSA National Tournament or on a digital platform.

11. LATE WITHDRAWALS

Players that withdraw from the SACSSA National Championships, after entries have been finalised, shall still be liable for the Entry Fee.

12. OFFICIALS

Every Region shall provide **one official and one more for every 30 entries.**

Any help offered by officials, to the Chess Organiser, is highly valued, but all chess related decisions are to be made by the arbiters. A copy of the latest FIDE Laws of chess will be available at the tournament, should any queries arise.

Schools with 10 or more players will be required to provide **one School Supervisor.** These School Supervisors are regarded as part of the officials for catering purposes.

13. DRESS CODE

The dress code shall be **school uniform**, if a school or home school does not have a uniform they shall be **smartly dressed.**

Should any player not comply to this stipulation, a penalty fee may be charged.

14. HOSTING SCHOOL

A school that hosts the SACSSA National Championships, shall be responsible for the following:

- a) Venue to accommodate all the players [the expected number will be supplied by the National Office]
- b) A list of possible accommodation in the area.
- c) Catering to the official. The cost will be reimbursed by SACSSA.
- d) Registration Area, per age group, per gender.
- e) Tuck shop.

15. TOURNAMENT FORMAT

This will be a rated tournament so it will be played according to the FIDE rules of chess unless stated otherwise in this policy.

Starting rank will firstly be made by CHESSA rating and unrated players will be ranked alphabetically, thereafter.

The SACSSA National Chess Championships shall be done in one day and consist of a minimum of six rounds and each round shall have a maximum time period of 30/30 minutes, which may be shortened during the tournament, should all the players have completed their games beforehand and the new rounds have been worked out. At least 15 minutes' rest for the last players to finish must be allowed.

The SACSSA Tournament will not play the "Quickplay Finishes" as per FIDE Guidelines III.

Should there not be a minimum of 10 players in a specific age group, they may be combined with another group, at the discretion of the Chief Arbiter, for playing purposes, but the results will be calculated separately.

A strong female player may also on special request ask to compete in the Male section of that specific age group. The Chess Committee will decide whether such an application can be accepted.

The Chess Committee may also decide to conduct certain sections of the Tournament on two different time schedules [eg a shorter time period per round for the 9's and 11's] should such a decision be beneficial to all concerned.

16. TIE BREAKS

To be determined in the following order, if the final scores are the same

1. Direct Encounter
2. Buchholz
3. Sonneborn Burger

Should there still be a perfect tie, then both players will be recognised in the same position and if in the top 3 will both be awarded the specific medal.

17. ILLEGAL MOVES

The illegal move rules for U9 year olds is adjusted from the second completed illegal move by the same player to the third illegal move by the same player. Rule 7.5.5 and A5.2.

By this SACSSA is trying to assist young players in development who did not have the exposure to the chess rules as yet.

With all other age groups, the illegal moves will be handled as per FIDE Rules with losing the match on the second illegal move completed by the same player. On the first illegal move the player will be issued a yellow card to indicate that an illegal move has been committed

18. CHESS EQUIPMENT

SACSSA strongly recommends that every chess playing school shall invest in proper chess sets and at least one chess clock.

During the SACSSA National Chess Championships, Official chess sets and clocks as stipulated by CHESSA shall be used, as far as possible, for the more advanced players.

SACSSA will provide all chess boards and pieces needed for the tournament. Clocks will either be borrowed from any of the Chess Unions or schools will be asked to bring their chess clocks.

19. ELECTRONIC DEVICES FOR PLAYERS

The FIDE Rules of Chess are very clear and strict on the use of electronic devices as they have unfortunately been used in the past to cheat. Therefore, the following will apply for the SACSSA Tournament:

- **Cell phones are not allowed in the playing area for players. If cell phones cannot be left outside then they should be switched off and stored in the bag, on the floor. If this cannot be**

done then the cell phone, switched off, is to be placed on the playing table upside down.

No earbuds are allowed to be worn. They must be left outside or stored away.

- No watches are allowed to be worn by the players. They are to be left outside or stored away in bags on the floor.

If any electronic device is found on a player other than described above he/she will forfeit his/her match. Subsequent infringement will be handled by the onsite Chief Arbiter as per paragraph 12.9 of the FIDE Rules.

20. MEDALS & CERTIFICATES

The top three players in each age group will receive SACSSA medals. These players may also request Merit Certificates.

21. SACSSA NATIONAL COLOURS

SACSSA National Colours will be awarded to players who are selected for the SACSSA Team, in a further Tournament, if such a Tournament is possible.

22. OPEN CHESS TOURNAMENT

SACSSA will try its best to find an Open Chess Tournament, after the SACSSA National Tournament. The purpose of such a Tournament is to give SACSSA players the opportunity to compete against players from other clubs or schools or unions.

Invitations to such a Tournament will depend on the specific guidelines from the organisers.

23. POLICY UPDATE

The SACSSA Chess Policy, may be updated from time to time.

Any policy amendments suggested by the SACSSA Chess Committee, must be ratified by the SACSSA National Board.

24. POLICY COVER

The SACSSA Chess Policy must be read in conjunction with the SACSSA National Policy.

Addendum A

SACSSA NATIONAL CHESS COMMITTEE [2025]

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