

GERT SIBANDE CHESS

Merit Policy

MPUMALANGA



Revised: August 2016



CONTENTS

1. INTRODUCTION.....	1
1.1 Abbreviations & Descriptions	1
1.2 Basis of Calculation.....	1
2. Equation Elements	2
2.1 AOR	2
2.2 Performance Rating (PR):	2
2.3 Normalized Performance Rating (NPR):	2
3. GS Closed Tournaments.....	2
3.1 Junior GS Closed	2
3.2 Senior GS Closed	2
3.3 Qualification for invitation to the GS Closed Tournaments	3
3.4 Invitation to the GS Closed	3
3.5 Filling the field of GS Closed Tournaments.....	4
4. Qualification for GS Colours.....	4
5. Valid Tournaments for Ranking Score.....	5
6. Validity and consistency of system	6
7. Process for calculating merit scores	6
8. Merit Committee.....	6



1. INTRODUCTION

The objective of this document is to clarify the procedures of the Gert Sibande Chess Merit System.

A merit system is to be used to determine a ranking system for all active Gert Sibande Chess players to apply in the selection of teams and allocation of awards. The system should be mathematically consistent, transparent, fair, and prove integrity.

The merit system is aligned to incentivising increased activity and therefore discriminates against a lack of activity.

The existence of a merit system does not mean that colours will be automatically awarded to players solely based on a merit ranking.

1.1 Abbreviations & Descriptions

AOR	: Average Opponent Rating
Bye	: As per the Swiss or Round Robin system definition
Default	: As per the Swiss or Round Robin system definition
GS	: Gert Sibande
GS Closed	: Gert Sibande Closed Chess Championships
Junior Player	: Player who falls into one of the following age groups: U8, U10, U12, U14, U16, U18, U20
Merit Score	: Is the total merit points accumulated including that of the GS Closed
NPR	: Normalized Performance Rating
PR	: Performance Rating
Ranking Score	: Is the total ranking points accumulated before the GS Closed
Senior Player	: Player 20 years of age or older
Tournament	: FIDE or CHESSA Rated Normal Chess Tournament

1.2 Basis of Calculation

The main merit system will be based on a ranking system of the sum of the best performance ratings in tournaments during the current year. The premise of the system is similar to the well understood Grand Prix system as endorsed by CHESSA and FIDE.

In the case where a player is not awarded a CHESSA rating yet the player will be awarded a provisional rating. Provisional ratings will be applied per age group in line with the following:

- 1.2.1 U8 & U10: 500
- 1.2.2 U12: 700
- 1.2.3 U14: 900
- 1.2.4 U16 and higher: 1100



2. EQUATION ELEMENTS

2.1 AOR

Average Opponent Rating will be the average of the opponents' CHESSA rating of all games played excluding Bye's and Defaults.

2.2 Performance Rating (PR):

Performance Ratings to be used is that which is calculated by the Swiss Manager programme.

2.3 Normalized Performance Rating (NPR):

To compare the PR of players in a group it is necessary to have a common base. The common base of a group is the provisional rating as explained in section 1.2 above.

The NPR will be calculated as follows:

$$NPR = \frac{PR}{Group\ Rating}$$

3. GS CLOSED TOURNAMENTS

The GS Closed Tournaments is are annual tournaments. There is a GS Closed for junior players and one for senior players.

Participation in the GS Closed Tournaments are not automatic. Players are invited to play according to section 3.3 and 3.4 below.

3.1 Junior GS Closed

The Junior GS Closed Tournament comprises of 7 sections (U8, U10, U12, U14, U16, U18 and U20 age groups). Depending on the number of players invited the U8 & U10 age groups may be combined and the U18 & U20 may also be combined.

Depending on the number of players invited per age group, the format of the Junior GS Closed will either be Round Robin or a 6 round Swiss, and the time control will be 60:60 plus a 5 second increment from move 1. This GS Closed normally takes place during July/ August.

The winner of the GS Closed will be crowned as the GS Champion (per age group), and will receive a floating trophy and a trophy that becomes the player's property. In addition to the trophy the first 3 places in each age group will receive a medal, and all players playing in the GS Closed will receive a participation certificate.

3.2 Senior GS Closed

In contrast to the Junior GS Closed the Senior GS Closed will only comprise of 1 section. The format of the Senior GS Closed will be a Round Robin or Swiss depending on the number of players invited. The time control will be 90:90 plus a 30 second increment from move 1. The time control may be reduced, but will not be less than 60:60. The Senior GS Closed may also be conducted over more than 1 day. The Senior GS Closed will normally take place November/December, but may be changed.



As in the case of the Junior GS Closed, trophies will be awarded as well as medals, but no certificates will be issued to players.

Junior players may request the Merit Committee (in writing) to be invited to the Senior GS Closed. The Merit Committee will evaluate such request and the decision will be final.

3.3 Qualification for invitation to the GS Closed Tournaments

To qualify for invitation to either the Junior GS Closed or Senior GS Closed (from now referred to as GS Closed) the following criteria must be adhered to:

- 3.3.1 All Players must be paid up members of GS Chess, and have no outstanding fees to GS Chess. A player is a paid up GS Chess member when:
 - a. GS membership fees are paid before the end of April each year for all players with a CHESSA number. Membership fees differ for junior and senior players.
 - b. New players (i.e. persons without a CHESSA number) pay the GS membership fee at the 1st GS Tournament being played if such tournament falls after April.
 - c. Players moving from other Regions to GS must provide proof of previous Region membership fee payment.
 - d. Players who have been inactive for an extended period of time will be considered as new players and clause b above will be applied.
- 3.3.2 Junior players must have played at least 5 of the available GS Tournaments before the GS Closed. Three of the 5 tournaments must be played from January to before the GS Closed.
- 3.3.3 Senior players must have played at least 6 of the available GS Tournaments before the GS Closed. Three of the 6 tournaments must be played from January to before the GS Closed.
- 3.3.4 The top rated junior GS male and female player, as published by CHESSA at the beginning of June, qualifies automatically for invitation to the GS Closed on the following provisions:
 - a. Clause 3.3.1 above.
 - b. At least 3 GS Tournaments have been played from January to end of May in the year of the GS Closed.
 - c. Players who have been inactive and reactivated their GS membership (as in 3.3.1.d above) will not qualify on rating but will be subjected to clause 3.3.2 above.

If needed, the President may reduce the number of tournaments that should've been played before the GS Closed.

3.4 Invitation to the GS Closed

All players who qualified for invitation according to section 3.3 above will be invited to play in the GS Closed.



Players will receive a letter from GS Chess via e-mail as invitation. In rare instances players may be contacted telephonically. (Players must ensure that GS Chess has their current contact details, especially e-mail address.)

Players need to confirm participation in the GS Closed by the due date stipulated in the invitation letter. No response indicates no participation and the player will then not be eligible for GS Colours (section 4 below).

If players do not receive an invitation letter, those players do not qualify for invitation.

Players who are invited to, and are not able to play must apply in writing to GS Chess to be excused from the GS Closed. Acceptable reasons are:

3.4.1 The player is participating in a sport or cultural competition on a National/Provincial level.

3.4.2 The player is participating in a sport or cultural competition which is considered as trials for the National team.

Invited players who confirmed participation but did not participate in the GS Closed and who should be considered for GS Colours, must provide proof for their absence. Valid reasons for not participating are:

3.4.3 Illness. A doctor's letter confirming the player was too sick to play must be provided to the GS Chess Secretary by the Wednesday following the GS Closed.

3.4.4 Death of a family member. The death certificate must be provided to the GS Chess Secretary.

3.5 Filling the field of GS Closed Tournaments

For each player that confirmed participation in the GS Closed a Ranking Score will be calculated, using the best 4 tournaments as indicated by the following equation:

Ranking Score

$$= (\text{Best NPR} \times 25\%) + (2^{\text{nd}} \text{ Best NPR} \times 25\%) + (3^{\text{rd}} \text{ Best NPR} \times 25\%) \\ + (4^{\text{th}} \text{ Best NPR} \times 25\%)$$

A Ranking Score List will be compiled from all the Ranking Scores.

The field will be filled by starting from the top of the Ranking Score List. The final qualification and filling of the field will be done solely by the Merit Committee.

4. QUALIFICATION FOR GS COLOURS

4.1 To qualify for GS Colours it is compulsory for players to play in the GS Closed.

4.2 To represent GS Chess the following Merit Score calculation will be used (all definitions etc. as above):

$$\text{Merit Score} = (\text{Best NPR} \times 23\%) + (2^{\text{nd}} \text{ Best NPR} \times 23\%) + (3^{\text{rd}} \text{ Best NPR} \times 23\%) \\ + (\text{NPR of GS Closed} \times 31\%)$$

4.2.1 Should a player not play in the GS Closed and he/she did not have an authorised absence of leave, a Merit Score will be calculated by using



the 3 best tournaments only. Each tournament will have a weight ratio of 25% each. These 3 tournaments will be totalling 75% and the other 25% is lost.

4.2.2 Should a player have authorised absence of leave from the GS Closed (section 3.4 above), the Merit Score will be calculated by using the 3 best tournaments at a weighted ratio of 23% each. The fourth best tournament will replace the GS Closed and will have a weight ratio of 31%. These 4 tournaments will be totalling 100%.

4.3 Selection of players for GS Colours will be done by the Merit Committee in conjunction with:

4.3.1 Director of Youth Chess for junior players.

4.3.2 Director of Adult Chess for senior players.

4.3.3 Director of Woman's Chess for ladies only teams.

4.3.4 Director of Disabled Chess for disabled teams only.

4.3.4 A co-opted Merit Committee member if needed.

Should there be no Director appointed, then the selection will be done by the Merit Committee only.

Should a Merit Committee member and/or relative and/or family member be in contention for GS Colours then the Merit Committee member and/or Director may not be present during that specific selection process.

If a Merit Committee member and/or Director is excused from the specific selection process and there are less than 2 persons present an alternative person should be co-opted into the Merit Committee for said selection (see clause 4.3.4 above).

4.4 Starting from the top of the Merit Scores List, participants will be selected until the field is filled.

5. VALID TOURNAMENTS FOR RANKING SCORE

5.1 All the GS Tournaments (60:60 - Normal) from after the previous GS Closed to before the GS Closed of the current year are Ranking Score tournaments and will be taken into account. Please note clause 3.3.2 above.

5.2 All tournaments (from other Unions) can be presented to the GS Chess Merit Committee for approval as a Ranking Score tournament, should it achieve the following criteria:

5.2.1 Data must be supplied to Gert Sibande Chess in the Swiss Arbiter/Swiss Manager programme format or as accepted by CHESSA

5.2.2 The tournament must be CHESSA registered and rated.

5.2.3 There must be at least 5 players in a section for Round Robin and 8 for Swiss tournaments.

5.2.4 Minimum time schedule is 60:60 (Normal Chess)

5.2.5 Minimum of 5 rounds

5.2.6 Personal and contact details of all players must be available



5.2.7 Ratings used in tournament for pairing purposes are not older than 2 publications prior to the start date of the tournament.

The Merit Committee reserves the right to disqualify any tournament for Ranking List purposes at its sole discretion where the Merit Committee believes the results of the tournament will discriminate or unfairly advantage certain players.

6 VALIDITY AND CONSISTENCY OF SYSTEM

The system is dependent on a stable rating environment where statistical consistency can be reasonably proven. It is based on the CHESSA standard for calculation ratings as published on the CHESSA website in January 2016 and will be affected by changes on the method.

It is therefore required to re-evaluate the system should any of the following elements change within the CHESSA rating formulae:

- 6.1 New ratings are determined using a minimum of 12 rated games.
- 6.2 The K factor for ELO calculation does not exceed 40 for new players.
- 6.3 General alignment is kept to the FIDE ELO system.

7 PROCESS FOR CALCULATING MERIT SCORES

- 7.1 Substitute provisional ratings per age group.
- 7.2 Determine performance rating per player with Swiss Manager programme.
- 7.3 Append merit point per player to main merit database.

8 MERIT COMMITTEE

The Merit Committee's function is to:

- 8.1 Calculate and audit the Merit Score of GS Chess.
- 8.2 Interrogate the resultant Merit Scores and test it against the intent of the merit system.
- 8.3 Make suggestions to improve the system.

The GS Chess Merit Committee Members are:

President
Director of Youth
Head Coach

Approved on behalf of the Gert Sibande Chess Merit Committee on the 13th day of August 2016.

President