



# **CHESS DEVELOPMENT PLAN 2024-26**

# INTRODUCTION

*NZ Chess Federation Constitution 2019 states our objects are:*

- *To encourage, foster and regulate the game of chess in New Zealand.*
- *To arrange, regulate and control such matches, tournaments, competitions and other chess events.*
- *To maintain a register of chess players with measurements of comparative performance.*
- *To promote and further international cooperation in chess and...affiliate with any international chess organization and to permit, encourage and assist financially or otherwise the participation by NZ chess players in international events.*
- *To select those chess players who shall represent NZ at international events.*
- *To raise money in any manner for aforesaid objects.*

Our Federation is internationally respected and active in FIDE, Asian Chess Federation and Oceania Chess Confederation. Chess players of all ages, gender and abilities are the heart of our purpose. We want to expand the number of people playing organized chess over-the-board and online. We want to increase opportunities for players to increase their playing strength by enabling access to qualified trainers. We want to be represented in multiple international competitions by our strongest available individuals and teams.

Our Draft Plan 2021-23 presented to AGM Jan 2022 in Christchurch gave an overview of Federation operations and desired chess projects and goals. Our formal Plan 2023-2025 was adopted AGM Jan 2023 Wellington.

We have accomplished or made progress on several goals:

- Olympiad Teams India 2022 were supported by professional Captains and Craig Hall as Head-of-Delegation.
- FIDE Asian Seniors Championship 202 was hosted in Auckland providing title opportunities for local players.
- Online chess development lecture series by GM Dejan Bojkov proved popular.
- NZCF website modernized with new functionality in preparation.

Chess Development Plan 2024-26 updates initiatives and tasks while core themes and objectives remain the same.

We share a vision for growing more and better chess in New Zealand; more and better international representation and more funding from all sources to support growth.

**Nigel Metge**  
**President NZCF**

**Paul Spiller**  
**Vice-President NZCF**

## 1. CHESS IN CLUBS, SCHOOLS and INTERNET

Objectives	2024 (Calendar Year) Initiatives & Tasks	2025-26
<p><b>1.1</b> <i>Foster good relations with member Clubs in the spirit of partnership and encourage cooperation between Clubs.</i></p>	<p>-Consult extensively with Clubs on Constitution and other changes required under new Incorporated Societies legislation.</p>	<p>-Support Invercargill CC preparing for Congress Jan 2026.</p>
<p><b>1.2</b> <i>Promote cultural, educational and social benefits of chess to schools and school-age children.</i></p>	<p>-Coordinate Regional &amp; National Interschool Championships -Auckland (&amp; other regional) Schoolgirls Championship.</p>	<p>-Encourage Clubs to create new tournaments targeted at Juniors and Seniors to widen the chess playing base and generate revenue and publicity.</p>
<p><b>1.3</b> <i>Expand NZCF capability and participation in online tournaments.</i></p>	<p>-Reintroduce the Bledisloe and Blackburn Cups as online hybrid matches.</p>	<p>- Consult with experienced Organizers on how to do more and better. -Choose one online platform to develop relationship and possible sponsorship.</p>
<p><b>1.4</b> <i>Promote chess culture and participation in widest range of communities.</i></p>	<p>-Foster new Clubs. -Engage Dept. of Corrections, Blind Institute, Retirement Villages to increase access to chess activity. -Maintain active social media information and promotion.</p>	<p>-Assist new groups and Associates to transition to affiliated Clubs. -Encourage Club promotions such as public simul, exhibition matches, engaging local media.</p>

## 2. TOURNAMENTS and PARTICIPATION

Objectives	2024 (Calendar Year) Initiatives & Tasks	2025-26
<p><b>2.1</b> <i>Encourage Clubs to hold tournaments of varied styles to maximize participation.</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Support for Paul Spiller and Nigel Metge organizing Congress Auckland Jan 2025 on behalf of NZCF.</li> <li>-Support Paul Spiller and Howick-Pakuranga CC holding 2025 Bob Wade Memorial with invited internationals.</li> <li>-Support continuation of NZ Women’s Championship.</li> <li>-Support North Shore CC in continuation of National 960 Championship.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-In cooperation with a member Club, develop one interesting new format tournament such as ‘Pub Chess’</li> </ul>
<p><b>2.2</b> <i>Ensure adequate numbers of Arbiters and Organizers for future growth.</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Bob Gibbons to lead an Arbiters Workshop where our Arbiters can discuss training and qualification improvements needed. Hence define path for Arbiters to advance from entry level National Arbiter to International Arbiter through access to in-house and FIDE seminars.</li> <li>-Progress initiative from IS Peter Tsai for local Arbiter training seminar.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Assist International Arbiters to maintain titles by supporting their access to international tournaments.</li> <li>-Formal training programme for Organizers to increase pool of people competent to run FIDE rated tournaments.</li> </ul>
<p><b>2.3</b> <i>Tournament Regulations Updated.</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Updated Tournament Regulations now in force.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Ongoing monitoring and adjustment as required.</li> </ul>
<p><b>2.4</b> <i>Ensure accurate and accessible NZCF ratings</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-NZCF Rating now adjusted for deflation and updated quarterly thanks to Rating Officer Rowan Wood. Rowan considers this the best balance of frequency and accuracy.</li> <li>-FIDE Delegate Michael Freeman reminds everyone that accurate Vega reports from Arbiters (especially accuracy in names which should reflect legal/passport name) enable smooth transfer to FIDE for FIDE Rating.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Training others to assist and backup Michael and Rowan.</li> </ul>

### 3. PLAYER DEVELOPMENT

Objectives	2024 (Calendar Year) Initiatives & Tasks	2025-26
<p><b>3.1</b> -Support access to chess play for all ages, gender, skill and disability -Promote female participation and development at all levels. -Support selected players to gain experience of international competition</p>	<p>-The formation of ‘squads’ for Olympiad hopefuls has proved successful in helping timely selection of teams for Olympiad Budapest 2024. Selection of squads for Olympiad 2026 will commence. -Formation of Junior Cadre training for Asian Junior Championships. -Regional Schoolgirl Championships following the model of Auckland. -Specific targeting of groups not currently participating in chess – blind, disabled and institutionalized. Progress initiative ‘Chess in Prisons’.</p>	<p>-Ensure we have two well-prepared teams for Olympiad 2026. -Ensure we have the best player available for the World Cup if offered a place. -Encourage representation of our top Juniors in ACF Junior Championships.</p>
<p><b>3.2</b> Support opportunities for players to gain FIDE title norms.</p>	<p>-Achieving a FIDE title is not easy at any level. But such titles are an important mark of progression for players and inspire others to achieve. Hence, we are committed to creating or supporting tournaments where players can achieve norms or in rare cases, direct titles. The 2025 Jan Bob Wade Memorial may offer such a chance.</p>	<p>-At least one norm tournament per year with international players.</p>
<p><b>3.3</b> Establish higher-level coaching school using Zoom</p>	<p>-Continuation of Zoom Schools using GM &amp; IM coaches.</p>	<p>Exceptional players (Junior &amp; Senior) will be selected by NZCF for partial funding support to access online training.</p>
<p><b>3.4</b> Increase the number and standard of local trainers.</p>	<p>-Trainers Commission established with early work on improving NZCF Pawn, Knight, Bishop, Rook tests. -Form local training forum for mutual learning. -Increase access to FIDE seminars.</p>	<p>By end 2025 to have adequate numbers and geographical spread of Trainers so all have access.</p>

## 4. COMMUNICATION and INFORMATION

Objectives	2024 (Calendar Year) Initiatives & Tasks	2025-26
<p><b>4.1</b> <i>Improve communication with Clubs and encourage feedback</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Webmaster continuously updates website &amp; social media with tournaments, results and relevant photos.</li> <li>-NZCF President freely accessible by Zoom (or physically visit where possible) to every Club President or Secretary to hear feedback and provide explanation of NZCF direction and how we might improve.</li> <li>- President's Newsletter to include Council decisions.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Expansion of social media presence.</li> <li>-Online Editor to expand online magazine for local chess including analysis of games and articles.</li> </ul>
<p><b>4.2</b> <i>Participate in relevant FIDE, Asian Chess Federation, Oceania Confederation international forums.</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Continuing to follow up on visit by two FIDE officials Anastasia Sorokina and Dana Reizniece-Ozola hosted in Auckland and Wellington 2023 including meeting with Ministry of Education and Sport NZ officials</li> <li>-Paul Spiller, sometimes with Craig Hall or Nigel Metge, attended many online FIDE, ACF and Oceania forums.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Continued participation in relevant forums.</li> <li>-Reporting of interesting decisions and trends published on website.</li> <li>-Utilizing NZCF credibility to gain rights to host international tournaments.</li> </ul>
<p><b>4.3</b> <i>Develop online entry and payment system &amp; database of player contacts</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-NZCF website revamped using WordPress and online payment application selected.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Installation of CRM database.</li> </ul>
<p><b>4.4</b> <i>Preserve NZ chess history in physical &amp; digital form and increase access.</i></p>	<p>Following ending of Howick Chess Centre facility, seek new leased premises for operations of NZCF and display of historic photos, trophies and memorabilia.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Historical chess photographs (digital and film) to be curated and stored on NZCF website.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Catalogue and make more accessible NZCF stock of donated chess books.</li> </ul>

## 5. FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT and FINANCIAL SUSTAINABILITY

Objectives	2024 (Calendar Year & Financial Year) Initiatives & Tasks	2025-26
<p><b>5.1</b>  <i>Manage NZCF finances prudently such that an annual net surplus (before depreciation) is generated. Net surplus is then:</i>  <i>-Spent for chess development projects - Transferred ca. 20% to reserves for contingencies and investment.</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- NZCF will operate at an annual net surplus before depreciation.</li> <li>-Clubs holding NZCF tournaments should aim to make a surplus.</li> <li>-Clubs seeking NZCF support for a tournament or event must show budgeted income &amp; costs preferably including local sponsorship. Support will be in the form of cashflow support or guarantee against loss.</li> <li>-Olympiad 2024 is budgeted to cost ca. net \$15,000 including professional Team Captain fees and their travel and HOD travel.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-All Congresses will operate without requiring NZCF subsidy:  Auckland 2025  Invercargill 2026</li> <li>-Olympiad 2026 costs to be spread across both years.</li> </ul>
<p><b>5.2</b>  <i>Ensure long-term sustainability of NZCF by ensuring 'Core Income' (excluding sales, grants, donations) exceeds 'Core Expenses' by:</i>  <i>-Decreasing costs, especially admin</i>  <i>-Increasing income by fees and other sources</i>  <i>-Increasing passive income by active investment of reserves.</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Accounts for FY 2022-23 and special FY 6 months July-Dec 2023 show an operating profit in each period.</li> <li>-FY 2024 will be Calendar Year which aligns NZCF with FIDE and NZ Clubs and makes budgeting more reliable.</li> <li>-Reserves policy in place to ensure adequate but not excessive cash reserves held by NZCF.</li> <li>-Cash reserve held in 3 ANZ Bank accounts to maximize interest earned.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Active investment of reserves to generate more income.</li> <li>-Ongoing search for Corporate Sponsor for long-term commitment.</li> </ul>
<p><b>5.3</b>  <i>Improve financial recording and reporting to best practice. Annual Accounts must be accurate, intelligible &amp; defensible.</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-NZCF Treasurer uses Xero software currently hosted on external servers. This provides independent security of data and generation of management accounts for the Council.</li> <li>-Annual Performance Report ('Accounts') are prepared by Treasurer with assistance from professional accounting services. The goal is to produce clear, accurate and verifiable Financial Statements for Clubs, for private donators and for potential sponsors.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Seamless production of Operating, Cashflow and Financial Position Statements from Xero.</li> </ul>

## 6. FUNDING – FEES, GRANTS, SALES, SPONSORSHIP, INVESTMENT

Objectives	2024 (Calendar & Financial Year) Initiatives & Tasks	2025-26
<p><b>6.1</b> <i>Actively search and apply for grants from FIDE and Charitable funding agencies.</i></p>	<p>-Application for 2<sup>nd</sup> FIDE (PDC) grant underway and will be utilized 2024            -Negotiation with private sponsor for Congress &amp; Bob Wade Memorial in progress.            Ongoing maintenance of good relations with Middle Game Chess Foundation and Chess Friends to align funding goals.            -At least one tailored sponsorship proposal presented to a national company.</p>	<p>-Apply for at least one grant per year from a Charitable funding agency            -Apply for at least one grant from FIDE.</p>
<p><b>6.2</b> <i>Invest cash reserves in safe but higher yielding instruments than bank deposits.</i></p>	<p>-NZCF cash reserve earns interest which partially maintains purchasing power. Professional advice on more active investment options will be sought.</p>	<p>-Ongoing oversight of investment returns vs. risk.            -Update bequest and donation documentation.</p>
<p><b>6.3</b> <i>Sell quality chess goods to Clubs at a price sufficient to generate fair profit.</i></p>	<p>-Revenue and profit from sales is minimal as nearly all existing stock sold. Clubs will be consulted over desired stock before substantial restocking.            -NZCF Junior Badges and Certificates continue as standardized training resource and income generator.</p>	<p>-Ongoing consultation with Clubs on their needs and purchase relevant stock for resale.</p>
<p><b>6.4</b> <i>Membership and Tournament Fees</i></p>	<p>-Membership fees were increased from 1 July 2023 and have restored NZCF financial stability and reserves.            -Therefore, no increase in fees from current levels will apply in 2024. If GST registration is required in 2024, NZCF will absorb the GST tax for 2024.            -FIDE rating fee is charged on a cost-recovery basis plus a small fee to cover administration and currency fluctuations.</p>	<p>-No further fee increases are anticipated.            -Prepare for GST registration when applicable revenues reach \$60,000 in 2024 or 2025. If Operational surplus permits, then NZCF will consider absorbing GST tax cost.</p>



## 7. GOVERNANCE

Objectives	2024 (Calendar & Financial Year) Initiatives & Tasks	2025-26
<p><b>7.1</b> <i>Operate NZCF with professionalism and probity aspiring to best business and ethical practice.</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Council meetings held by Microsoft Teams monthly.</li> <li>-Online payments require authorization from 2 Officials.</li> <li>-Incorporation of Constitution changes required by new new Incorporated Societies Act 2022 and Charities Act 2005 to ensure we comply.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Alignment with principles of government bodies such as Sport NZ and NZ Olympic Committee, where appropriate.</li> </ul>
<p><b>7.2</b> <i>Align goals with our international bodies FIDE, Asian Chess Federation and Oceania Chess Confederation.</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Continued alignment of NZCF goals with those of FIDE especially but also ACF &amp; OCC goals.</li> <li>Note accessing FIDE funding is strenuous, requiring target KPIs and emphasis on chess promotion to females, minorities and disadvantaged communities.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Seek new funding opportunities from FIDE specifically where we have consciously aligned goals.</li> </ul>
<p><b>7.3</b> <i>Maintain good record keeping of minutes of Council meetings and decisions, financial income and expenditure, correspondence and other relevant documents.</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Financial reports from Xero presented to each Council meeting.</li> <li>-Annual review of agreements for all paid contractors such as Webmaster &amp; Administrator.</li> <li>-Agenda for each Council meeting prepared in advance and Minutes kept of decisions made and approved as correct at subsequent meeting.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Utilize professional support for NZCF volunteer officers where appropriate and affordable.</li> </ul>
<p><b>7.4</b> <i>Plan for continuity in the event of unexpected change or catastrophe. This includes systems and people.</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Ongoing digitizing and transfer of historical material and key current data to Cloud.</li> <li>-Physical assets recorded and stored securely in rented storage rather than private homes where feasible.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Continue succession planning for key people and functions.</li> </ul>

END