



CHESS DEVELOPMENT PLAN 2024-26

2024 Progress Summary

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 organisation 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 increase the number of people of all ages playing organised 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.

Highlights of 2024:

- Our Open and Women's Olympiad Teams had pre-selection and post-selection training for the first time from professional Captains GM Dejan Bojkov and IM Herman van Riemsdijk. Both teams performed excellently with Yolanda Chang and Nadia Braganza achieving WFM titles. Our Teams in Budapest were supported by Craig Hall as Head of Delegation and Paul Spiller as Official NZCF Delegate. The President also attended, entirely at his own expense, to assist where needed and met the FIDE President.
- We had the honour of being invited by FIDE to host the Oceania leg of FIDE 100-years-since founding Torch Ceremony. We were graced by the fantastic presence of former World Champion Vishy Anand and WGM Dana Reizniece-Ozola, Deputy-Chair of the FIDE Development Commission.
- For the second time only, New Zealand was represented by a team at the World Seniors Teams Championship in Krakow, Poland.
- After consideration of software used by other chess Federations around the world, NZCF acquired a specialised CRM software package to enable better player and club database management and to increase our website functionality.
- Extensive preparatory work and initial consultation on options for revised Constitution required by the new Incorporated Societies Act 2022.

This Chess Development Plan 2024-26 updates initiatives and tasks while core themes and objectives remain the same as adopted at the Wellington AGM (January 2023) and as presented to the AGM in March 2025.

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. CHES IN CLUBS, SCHOOLS and INTERNET

Objectives	2024 (Calendar Year) Initiatives & Tasks	2025-26	Progress Jan 2025
1.1 <i>Foster good relations with member Clubs in the spirit of partnership and encourage cooperation between Clubs.</i>	-Consult extensively with Clubs on Constitution and other changes required under new Incorporated Societies legislation.	-Continue consultation process through physical discussion at 2025 Congress, online workshop Mar-April 2025 with final approval mid-late 2025.	-Consultation docs on Constitution changes sent to all Clubs and initial feedback received.
1.2 <i>Promote cultural, educational and social benefits of chess to schools and school-age children.</i>	-Coordinate Regional & National Interschool Championships -Auckland (& other regional) Schoolgirls Championship.	-Some regions may require an alternative model for organisation eg. payment to the Club or Organiser. -Better coordination with private providers of chess competition.	-Regional Interschools conducted, but some Clubs report stress on volunteer resources.
1.3 <i>Expand NZCF capability and participation in online tournaments.</i>	-Reintroduce the Bledisloe and Blackburn Cups as online hybrid matches.	-Consult with experienced Organisers on how to do better. -Choose one online platform.	-Hybrid Bledisloe & Blackburn Cups awarded. Format to be reviewed.
1.4 <i>Promote chess culture and participation in a wide range of communities.</i>	-Foster new Clubs. -Engage Dept. of Corrections, Blind Institute, Retirement Villages to increase access to chess activity. -Maintain active social media information and promotion.	-Assist new groups and Associates to transition to affiliated Clubs. -Encourage Club promotions such as public simul, exhibition matches, engaging local media.	-North City Knights CC as new Affiliate Member. -Mohua CC as new Associate Member -Northland Championships held on volunteer basis.

2. TOURNAMENTS and PARTICIPATION

Objectives	2024 (Calendar Year) Initiatives & Tasks	2025-26	Progress Jan 2025
2.1 <i>Encourage Clubs to hold tournaments of varied styles to maximize participation.</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Support for Paul Spiller and Nigel Metge organising Congress Auckland Jan 2025 on behalf of NZCF. -Support Paul Spiller and Howick-Pakuranga CC holding 2025 Bob Wade Memorial with invited internationals. -Support continuation of NZ Women's Championship. -Support North Shore CC in continuation of National 960 Championship. 	-Support Invercargill CC preparing for Congress Jan 2026.	<p>-All NZCF tournaments were held successfully.</p> <p>-Congress Jan 2025 particularly noted for record participation across all events; record prize money for a Congress aside from the international events including the NZ Championships which were held in Queenstown in 2006, 2009 and 2012; quality of venue; good organisation; generating significant revenue for NZCF.</p>
2.2 <i>Ensure adequate numbers of Arbiters and Organisers for future growth.</i>	-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.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Assist International Arbiters to maintain titles by supporting their access to international tournaments. -Develop formal training programme for Organisers to increase the pool of people competent to run FIDE rated tournaments. 	-IA Peter Tsai held local National Arbiter training and introduction to Vega resulting in several new NAs.
2.3 <i>Tournament Regulations Updated.</i>		-Ongoing monitoring and adjustment as required.	-Updated Tournament Regulations in force and working well.
2.4 <i>Ensure accurate and accessible NZCF ratings.</i>	-NZCF Rating is now adjusted for deflation and updated quarterly thanks to NZCF Rating Officer Rowan Wood. Rowan considers this the best balance of frequency and accuracy.	-Accurate and timely Vega reports from Arbiters required to enable smooth transfer to FIDE for FIDE Rating. Especially accuracy in names which should reflect passport name.	<p>-NZCF thanks Michael Freeman who retires after many years' service to NZ Chess.</p> <p>-Richard Christie appointed FIDE Rating Officer.</p> <p>-NZCF Rating Lists are now issued quarterly thanks to Rowan Wood.</p>

3. PLAYER DEVELOPMENT

Objectives	2024 (Calendar Year) Initiatives & Tasks	2025-26	Progress Jan 2025
<p>3.1 -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 timely selection of teams for Olympiad Budapest 2024. -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>- Selection of squads for Olympiad 2026 will commence. -Ensure we have training programme in place for selected teams Olympiad Uzbekistan 2026. -Ensure we have the best players available for the World Cup. -Encourage representation of our top Juniors in ACF Junior Championships.</p>	<p>-Olympiad Teams performed very well with 2 women players gaining titles. -World Cup places awarded for one Open and one woman based on excellent Olympiad performance.</p>
<p>3.2 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>-Bob Wade and Hilton Bennett Memorials hosted successfully by Paul Spiller supported by Middle Game Foundation in same venue as NZ Congress. Oscar Qin achieved a CM norm and Richard Christie an IA norm.</p>
<p>3.3 Establish higher-level coaching school using Zoom.</p>	<p>-Continuation of Online Coaching School using GM & IM coaches.</p>	<p>-Exceptional players (Junior & Senior) will be selected by NZCF for partial funding support to access online training.</p>	<p>-Olympiad Teams had four online coaching sessions from Team Captains -No General Online School held.</p>

4. COMMUNICATION and INFORMATION

Objectives	2024 Initiatives & Tasks	2025-26	Progress Jan 2025
4.1 <i>Improve communication with Clubs and encourage feedback.</i>	-Website & social media updated as soon as possible. -NZCF President freely accessible to hear feedback and provide explanation of NZCF direction and how we might improve.	-Expansion of social media presence. -Online Editor to expand online magazine for local chess including analysis of games and articles.	- New CRM software ‘Chesslang’ purchased at Budapest Olympiad. Implementation underway. ‘Fedchess’ is a good all-in-one member database and event manager and improved website potential. - The new Social Media team associated with Aotearoa Chess magazine is engaged to boost our online presence. - Minutes of NZCF Council meetings circulated to Clubs.
4.2 <i>Participate in relevant FIDE, Asian Chess Federation, Oceania Confederation international forums.</i>	-Building on visit by two FIDE officials Anastasia Sorokina and Dana Reizniece-Ozola hosted in Auckland & Wellington 2023 meeting with Ministry of Education and Sport NZ. -Represented at many online FIDE, ACF and Oceania forums.	-Continued participation in relevant forums. -Reporting of important decisions and trends published on website. -Utilizing NZCF credibility to gain the rights to host international tournaments.	- FIDE 100-year Torch Ceremony hosted in Auckland with presence of former World Champion Vishy Anand & WGM Dana Reizniece-Ozola, Deputy-Chair of the FIDE Development Commission. Excerpts from video of this event shown internationally at Opening of Olympiad in Budapest. - Obtained full funding from FIDE for Olympiad Team travel costs.
4.3 <i>Develop online entry and payment system & database of player contacts.</i>	-NZCF website revamped using WordPress and online payment application selected.	-Installation of CRM database.	See above. Stripe online payments for NZCF invoices are now available.
4.4 <i>Preserve NZ chess history in physical & digital form and increase access.</i>	Seeking permanent home for NZCF historic photos, trophies and memorabilia.	-Catalogue and make more accessible NZCF stock of donated chess books.	No further progress.

5. FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT and FINANCIAL SUSTAINABILITY

Objectives	2024 (Calendar Year & Financial Year) Initiatives & Tasks	2025-26	Progress Jan 2025
<p>5.1 <i>Manage NZCF finances prudently such that an annual net profit (before depreciation) is generated. Net surplus is then:</i> -Spent for chess development projects -Transferred ca. 20% to reserves for contingencies and investment.</p>	<p>- NZCF will operate at an annual net profit before depreciation. -Clubs holding NZCF tournaments should aim to make a profit. -Clubs seeking NZCF support must show budgeted income & costs preferably including local sponsorship. Support will be in the form of cashflow support or guarantee against loss.</p>	<p>-All Congresses will operate without requiring NZCF subsidy: Auckland 2025 Invercargill 2026</p>	<p>-NZCF tournaments held with no financial assistance from NZCF. -More work required to generate a net profit in Olympiad years.</p>
<p>5.2 <i>Ensure long-term sustainability of NZCF by ensuring 'Core Income (excluding sales, grants, donations) exceeds 'Core Expenses'.</i></p>	<p>-Cash reserves held in three ANZ Bank accounts to maximize interest earned.</p>	<p>-Ongoing search for Corporate Sponsor for long-term commitment.</p>	<p>-Payments now require two online approvals. -Cash managed to maximize interest.</p>
<p>5.3 <i>Improve financial recording and reporting to best practice. Annual Accounts must be accurate, intelligible & defensible.</i></p>	<p>-NZCF Treasurer uses Xero software currently hosted on external servers. This provides independent security of data and generation of management accounts for the Council. -Annual Performance Report (Accounts') are prepared by the 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.</p>	<p>-Seamless production of Financial Performance, Financial Position and Cashflows from Xero.</p>	<p>-Treasurer and Admin Officer using Xero for transactions and Xero Reports. -BVB Accounting template used for Annual Accounts production.</p>

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

Objectives	2024 (Calendar & Financial Year) Initiatives & Tasks	2025-26	Progress Jan 2025
6.1 <i>Actively search and apply for grants from FIDE and Charitable funding agencies.</i>	-Application for 2 nd FIDE (PDC) grant underway and will be utilized in 2024. -Negotiation with private sponsor for Congress & Bob Wade Memorial in progress. Ongoing maintenance of good relations with Middle Game Chess Foundation and Chess Friends to align funding goals.	-Apply for at least one grant per year from a Charitable funding agency. -Apply for at least one grant from FIDE. At least one tailored sponsorship proposal presented to a national company.	- Successful application to Pub Charity. - Successful application to FIDE for Olympiad Travel Grant
6.2 <i>Invest cash reserves in safe but higher yielding instruments than bank deposits.</i>	-NZCF cash reserve earns interest which partially maintains purchasing power.	-Update bequest and donation documentation.	Currently three ANZ accounts to maximize interest while maintaining sufficient on call cash.
6.3 <i>Sell quality chess goods to Clubs at a price sufficient to generate fair profit.</i>	-Revenue and profit from sales is minimal as nearly all existing stock sold. Clubs will be consulted over the desired stock before substantial restocking. -NZCF Junior Badges and Certificates continue as standardised training resource and income generator.	-Ongoing consultation with Clubs on their needs and purchasing relevant stock for resale.	Current policy of NZCF is to hold chess materials for loan to Clubs rather than retail sale.
6.4 <i>Membership and Tournament Fees.</i>	-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.	-Prepare for GST registration when applicable revenues may reach \$60,000 in 2025 or 2026 -If net profits permits, then NZCF will absorb GST tax cost to clubs.	No further fee increases for FY 2025.

7. GOVERNANCE

Objectives	2024 (Calendar & Financial Year) Initiatives & Tasks	2025-26	Progress Jan 2025
<p>7.1 <i>Operate NZCF with professionalism and probity aspiring to best business and ethical practice.</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Council meetings held by Microsoft Teams monthly. -Online payments require authorization from two Officials. -Drafting Constitution changes required by the new Incorporated Societies Act. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Alignment with government bodies such as Sport NZ and NZ Olympic Committee,. 	<p>-Constitutional review consultation underway.</p>
<p>7.2 <i>Align goals with our international bodies FIDE, Asian Chess Federation and Oceania Chess Confederation.</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Continued alignment of NZCF goals with those of FIDE especially but also ACF & OCC goals. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Accessing FIDE funding is strenuous, requiring target KPIs and emphasis on chess promotion to women, minorities and disadvantaged communities. 	<p>Ongoing.</p>
<p>7.3 <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"> -Financial reports from Xero for each Council meeting. -Annual review of agreements for all paid contractors. -Agenda for each Council meeting prepared in advance and Minutes kept of decisions made. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Utilise professional support for NZCF volunteer officers where appropriate and affordable. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Administration Officer records financial transactions. -Treasurer oversees the financial transactions and preparation of the Annual Accounts.
<p>7.4 <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"> -Digitising and transfer of key current & historical data to Cloud complete. -Physical assets recorded and stored securely in rented storage rather than private homes. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Succession planning for key functions. -Research and store historical chess photos and data to Cloud. 	<p>-Succession planning is difficult with elected Councilors and mostly volunteer work. However, we have managed changes throughout the year.</p>