

BETWEEN	AUCKLAND CHESS CENTRE (ACC) KEONG ANG TIMOTHY HA Applicants
AND	NEW ZEALAND CHESS FEDERATION (NZCF) Respondent

**DECISION OF SPORTS TRIBUNAL
8 SEPTEMBER 2026**

Hearing	28 August 2026 – by Microsoft Teams
Present	Paul David KC & Qin hao Zhu, counsel for Applicants Stephen Lukey, counsel for Respondent Craig Hall, President NZCF
Tribunal	John Macdonald (Chair) Dame Susan Devoy Erin Baker MBE
Registrar	Luke Macris

Introduction

1. The Auckland Chess Centre (ACC) and the New Zealand Chess Federation (NZCF) have jointly filed an application (Form 9) with the Sports Tribunal (the Tribunal) for resolution of a sports-related dispute.
2. Pursuant to s.38(b)(ii) of the Sports Tribunal Act 2026 the Tribunal has agreed to hear and determine the dispute, which comes under Part E of the Tribunal Rules, and is in substance an appeal against a decision made by NZCF as a National Sports Organisation.

Background

3. ACC was founded in 1971 and is one of the oldest chess clubs in New Zealand. It is a member of the NZCF which is the national representative body for chess. There is no need to go into the detail, but both parties acknowledge that for some time their relationship has been strained.
4. On 18 March 2025, Mr Ha, the Club Captain of ACC, sent the following email to Mr Joel, the President of the Waitakere Chess Club (WTCC):

Hi Chris,

On Monday we did not get to talk about the NZCF AGM, but as ACC captain myself and you as president of Waitakere, I would like to let you know that if WTCC doesn't support ACC, we will consider that a hostile position, and in that case you as well as your club's voting representative at the AGM won't be able to play at ACC.

Please vote for ACC remits and not against them. Vote only for [Person A] as councillor for Auckland and [Person B] as councillor for Central North Island.

And do not vote for [Person C] as NZCF Life Member. He doesn't have worthy contributions to deserve that.

If you can't vote like that (all the above) then abstain from voting.

Thanks

Timothy

5. NZCF issued formal notification of complaint letters dated 31 August 2025 against Mr Ha, Mr Ang, as the ACC Secretary, and ACC. The letters to Mr Ha and Mr Ang stated:

This complaint raises concerns that the alleged conduct may breach the NZCF Bullying and Harassment Policy and infringe upon the NZCF object of fostering and developing chess.

If the complaint is made out, sanctions ranging from a censure up to a ban under the Tournament Regulations could be imposed.

The letter to ACC was similar, noting the alleged breach of the NZCF Bullying and Harassment Policy and infringement of the object of fostering and developing chess, but referred to a different penalty, ranging from a censure to removal as a member of NZCF by decision of a Special General Meeting.

6. Following an investigation into complaints about the email, the NZCF Council (the Council) made decisions by letters dated 1 December 2025 in relation to Mr Ha, Mr Ang, and ACC. They imposed the following penalty on Mr Ha:

You...are banned as a player from future NZCF tournaments and other NZCF-rated tournaments for a period of two (2) years, from the date of this letter being 1 December 2025.

However, one (1) year of this is suspended for a period of three (3) years.

As the Council considered that Mr Ha had acted on the instruction or with the approval of Mr Ang, as the ACC Secretary, the same ban was imposed on Mr Ang. In relation to ACC, there was a recommendation for ACC's expulsion at the next NZCF AGM, as the complaints made out against Mr Ha and Mr Ang involved their acting on behalf of ACC.

7. The bans were based on the Council's view that Mr Ha's sending of the email to Mr Joel amounted to conduct that was "offensive, dishonourable, or detrimental to the interests, welfare or standing of chess", contrary to reg. 1.11.1 of the NZCF Tournament Regulations May 2023 (Tournament Regulations).
8. In bringing the dispute before the Tribunal, the parties agreed to interim measures suspending the effect of the penalty decisions, pending resolution of the dispute by mediation or a decision by the Tribunal.

Issues

9. While the written statements of evidence filed provided helpful context, the Tribunal considers that the resolution of the dispute comes down to three issues. The first issue is:
 - a. Did NZCF act outside its powers in imposing the bans?
10. If the Tribunal determines that NZCF acted within its powers, then two further issues arise:
 - a. Was natural justice denied to the Applicants in the decision-making process?
 - b. Were the bans imposed excessive or inappropriate?

Did NZCF act outside its powers in imposing the bans?

Applicant submissions

11. Paul David KC, on behalf of the Applicants, submitted that NZCF's decisions of 1 December 2025 were unlawful and should be set aside. He argued that reg. 1.11.1 of the Tournament Regulations applies only to conduct connected with tournament play

and does not extend to conduct relating to governance matters. Because Mr Ha's email of 18 March 2025 concerned voting at the NZCF AGM and was unrelated to tournament play, he submitted that NZCF had no power under reg. 1.11.1 to impose sanctions on Mr Ha, Mr Ang, or ACC.

12. Mr David referred the panel to the legal principles set out in *Middeldorp v Avondale Jockey Club Inc*¹:

“The Club [here, NZCF] and the Committee [here, NZCF Council] must act in accordance with the Rules and can only take actions which the Rules empower it to take in circumstances where sanctions are to be imposed.”²

“An untrammelled, implied power to discipline members is a dangerous device. It is common sense that its extent should be specified, so all members know what the consequences of their actions might be.”³

13. In Mr David's submission, the legal principles were clear: if a club does not act within the rules, it acts unlawfully and powers to discipline or punish must be clear on the face of the rules. They are not and cannot be matters for implication.
14. In this light, Mr David submitted that the Tournament Regulations, read as a whole, regulate tournament activity only and reg. 1.11.1 must be interpreted in that context. He argued that NZCF's broader interpretation would create an uncertain disciplinary jurisdiction, enabling sanctions for any conduct considered offensive, dishonourable or detrimental to chess, irrespective of its connection to tournaments, when it is clear that the wording and structure of the regulations is directed toward tournament behaviour only.
15. Therefore, Mr David submitted that any power under reg. 1.11.1 must be exercised for the purpose of regulating tournament conduct and could not properly be used to address conduct arising from disputes concerning NZCF governance and AGM voting. He also submitted that reg. 1.11.1 applies only to "players" and therefore could not lawfully be relied upon to sanction Mr Ang, who is described as an arbiter but not a player.
16. On this basis, the Applicants sought declarations that the decisions were unlawful, invalid and of no effect, and that the orders be set aside.

¹ [2019] NZHC 901

² [2019] NZHC 901 at [70]

³ *Middeldorp* [2019] NZHC 901 at [67] (quoting Kós J in *Tamaki v Māori Women's Welfare League Inc*) (affirmed in relevant part [2020] NZCA 13 at [38]-[42]).

Respondent submissions

17. Stephen Lukey, on behalf of NZCF, submitted that Mr Ha, acting with the approval of Mr Ang and ACC, sought to influence voting at the 2025 NZCF AGM, by threatening to exclude individuals associated with NZCF from ACC tournaments, if they did not support ACC's preferred positions. He emphasised that those threats were subsequently carried out and amounted to conduct that was offensive, dishonourable or detrimental to the interests, welfare or standing of chess within the meaning of reg. 1.11.1.
18. Mr Lukey submitted that reg. 1.11.1 is not confined to conduct occurring during tournament play and the provision must be interpreted, in light of NZCF's wider disciplinary framework and international obligations, to apply to serious misconduct affecting the interests of chess, whether or not it occurs at a tournament. He submitted that if the Applicants' interpretation was accepted it would leave NZCF unable to sanction a range of serious misconduct occurring outside tournaments or enforce sanctions imposed by FIDE.
19. Alternatively, Mr Lukey submitted that the conduct in issue was, in any event, sufficiently connected to tournaments because the threats concerned participation in ACC tournaments and were ultimately implemented.
20. Finally, NZCF submitted that the Applicants had taken no meaningful steps to remedy their conduct, and that the sanctions imposed were justified and open to the Council in the circumstances.

Tribunal Analysis

21. The starting point is to recognise that the Council has the power to make regulations governing the conduct of tournaments and chess generally. This is conferred by clause 3.3.3 of the NZCF Constitution⁴, which states:

3.3.3 RIGHT TO MAKE REGULATIONS

The Council shall have power to make regulations governing the conduct of Federation tournaments and matches and chess generally provided that such regulations are not inconsistent with these rules. Subject to the right of the Federation in general meeting to amend, repeal or add to regulations made by the Council, such regulations shall be deemed to be rules of the Federation and binding upon members.

⁴ The version in force for the purposes of this appeal was the NZCF Constitution May 2024 (Adopted at a special general meeting held on 19 May 1991, with amendments passed by Annual General Meetings up to 24 March 2024).

22. Therefore, the Tournament Regulations, attached in full at Appendix One, can operate as a valid disciplinary framework. However, the question becomes: what is the proper legal scope or ambit of the Tournament Regulations and who does it cover?
23. The NZCF decisions to ban Mr Ha and Mr Ang relied upon reg. 1.11.1 of the Tournament Regulations, which states:

1.11.1 POWER TO BAN PLAYERS

The Council shall have power to ban from future NZCF tournaments and other NZCF-rated tournaments any player who wilfully infringes the NZCF or FIDE's rules or regulations or whose conduct is offensive, dishonourable or detrimental to the interests, welfare or standing of chess.

24. Like any subordinate rule, the meaning and operation of reg. 1.11.1 must be ascertained and interpreted in a manner that remains within the scope from which it derives its authority, being the Constitution, while also adhering to the legal principles set out in *Middeldorp v Avondale Jockey Club Inc.*⁵
25. The Tribunal does not accept that reg. 1.11.1 should be read as conferring an unlimited disciplinary jurisdiction over all conduct by any chess player, regardless of where or in what context it occurs. Such an interpretation would create a broad freestanding power to regulate behaviour throughout the chess community, without any clear and explicit language in the Tournament Regulations to establish such a general disciplinary regime.
26. Nothing in the Constitution expressly establishes such a general disciplinary regime, as cl. 3.3.3 only contemplates NZCF having the power to *make regulations* to govern conduct in chess generally. The Tournament Regulations properly construed do not establish such a general disciplinary regime either. Instead, they create a specific set of regulations and rules that cover the administration and operations over tournaments, which includes a specific disciplinary provision at reg. 1.11.1 directed at the "Conduct of Players"⁶ during these tournaments.
27. Properly construed, the Tournament Regulations are plainly concerned with tournaments and tournament play, which is evidenced by both the structure (e.g., the Tournament Regulations begin at reg. 1.1 with a section titled "Schedule of Tournaments") and the wording (e.g., the topics and naming conventions for sections; language consistently referring to "players") employed throughout.

⁵ [2019] NZHC 901

⁶ Refer the title of reg. 1.11

28. We agree with the Applicants that a reasonable reader of the Tournament Regulations would say that reg. 1.11.1 is only directed at the conduct of players while participating in tournaments that are organised under the Tournament Regulations.
29. The question therefore is not merely whether the conduct was offensive, dishonourable or detrimental to the interests of chess, but whether the conduct was of a kind falling within the proper scope of reg. 1.11.1 as so construed. The Tribunal also agrees with the Applicants' submission that the conduct relied upon by NZCF principally concerned conduct outside of a tournament. These were primarily disputes about the appropriateness (or not) of Mr Ha's email, which related to issues of governance, decisions about club membership, and the methods used to alter voting positions at the NZCF AGM. They are fundamentally political and constitutional matters regarding the appropriate governance of ACC and NZCF. They are distinct from the organisation of tournaments and the conduct of players in NZCF-rated competitions.
30. NZCF submits that the required connection exists because Mr Ha's email and the subsequent actions, whether undertaken by Mr Ha, Mr Ang or ACC, which impacted upon the ability of certain individuals to participate in ACC tournaments. We acknowledge that participation at tournaments formed part of the factual background. However, the mere fact that tournaments were used as a means through which Mr Ha's rather obvious threat manifested itself, does not transform what was essentially a complaint about whether ACC officials were acting and governing appropriately, into tournament-related misconduct for the purposes of reg. 1.11.1.
31. Accordingly, the Tribunal finds that reg. 1.11.1 remains a valid provision when confined to the conduct of players at tournaments and rated chess activities. However, the conduct that formed the basis of the decisions in this proceeding does not satisfy that requirement and falls outside the proper ambit of reg. 1.11.1. Put simply, Mr Ha was not playing in a chess tournament when he sent his email to Mr Joel on 18 March 2025, and such conduct had no connection with tournament play in any event.
32. The Tribunal therefore concludes that in relying upon reg. 1.11.1 as the source of authority for the bans imposed upon Mr Ang and Mr Ha, NZCF acted outside its powers. That means the bans cannot stand and must be set aside.
33. Having reached that conclusion, it is unnecessary for the Tribunal to determine the other two issues identified, but in deference to the comprehensive submissions from counsel, we will briefly address them.

Was natural justice denied?

34. The Applicants submitted that the disciplinary process was procedurally unfair in two respects. Mr David argued that there was an appearance of bias arising out of Mr Hall's role in investigating the complaints and that a reasonable observer could doubt his impartiality. He also submitted that the Applicants were denied natural justice because they were not provided with the original complaints and supporting material, were not afforded a proper opportunity to respond during the investigation and were not given an opportunity to be heard on penalty before the sanctions were imposed.
35. For NZCF, Mr Lukey rejected the allegations of procedural unfairness laid against NZCF. He submitted that Mr Hall's role was limited to investigating the complaints and preparing a report for the NZCF Council. Importantly, he abstained from taking part in the Council's final decision. There was therefore no basis for any allegation of bias.
36. Furthermore, Mr Lukey submitted that the Applicants were afforded multiple opportunities to respond during the investigation process but elected not to make any meaningful submissions. He also emphasised that the Applicants failed to exercise their right of appeal under the NZCF rules and, as a result, argued that neither the merits of the disciplinary decisions nor the alleged procedural defects should now be open to challenge.
37. As to referring the question of ACC's expulsion to a future AGM, Mr Lukey submitted that was separate and independently authorised under the Constitution. It did not depend upon reg. 1.11.1.
38. With respect to Mr Hall's involvement in the disciplinary process, we accept that his role was principally investigative in nature and, given that he abstained from voting on the Council's final decision, we are not persuaded that it created an appearance of bias sufficient to invalidate the process.
39. However, the Tribunal does have concerns about NZCF not hearing from the Applicant's in relation to sanction. While they were notified of the complaints and afforded an opportunity to comment on the allegations, NZCF accepted at the hearing that they did not give the Applicants an opportunity to make submissions on sanction because they considered the Applicants had not meaningfully engaged in the earlier stages of the investigation. The distinction between liability and penalty is an important

one and the requirements of natural justice ordinarily extend to providing an affected person with an opportunity to be heard on both issues.⁷

40. NZCF further argued that any complaint by the Applicants about procedural unfairness was hypocritical, given ACC's own treatment of individuals who had been excluded from participation in ACC activities. On that matter we accept that ACC's own processes may have fallen well short of accepted standards of procedural fairness and did not comply with its own constitutional requirements as regards membership decisions. However, that cannot be a proper response to the concerns raised about the NZCF process. The legality and fairness of NZCF's process must be assessed on its own merits. The fact that one party may previously have acted unfairly does not relieve another party's independent obligation to act fairly. Put simply, two procedural wrongs do not make a procedural right.
41. The Tribunal considers the failure to invite submissions on sanction did amount to a denial of natural justice and was a significant procedural deficiency, even though we have already determined the dispute on the basis that, in relying on reg.1.11.1 of the Tournament Regulations, NZCF had acted outside its powers.
42. Finally, we turn to the question of ACC's potential expulsion at a future NZCF AGM. At this stage, it is merely a recommendation to be tabled and considered by the NZCF membership. These are political and constitutional questions for the NZCF membership. However, we do make two brief observations. The first is that NZCF will not be able to rely on the outcome of its investigation and the sanctions imposed on Mr Ha and Mr Ang, given our decision that in imposing the bans NZCF acted outside its powers and the bans must be set aside. The second observation is that with the bans being set aside, the expulsion of ACC, and the impact it would have on its members, presents as a disproportionate response.

Were the bans imposed excessive or inappropriate?

43. We consider Mr Ha's email to be totally inappropriate, and it reflects very poor judgment on his part. It would also fit within the conduct described in reg. 1.11.1 as being offensive, dishonourable or detrimental to the interests, welfare or standing of chess.

⁷ We do not mean to suggest that disciplinary proceedings require that decision-makers need address liability and sanction at separate stages – as commonly occurs in court settings. These stages can, and regularly do for the prompt administration of justice, appropriately occur together in sporting contexts. The Tribunal's finding in this case is based on the nature of the communications and procedural approach adopted by NZCF, as well as the firm stance taken by the Applicants in response to the allegations.

44. However, having determined that reg.1.11.1 did not apply, it is difficult to make any meaningful assessment of the gravity or appropriateness of the sanction. That is because a ban, whatever its length, was not an option available to NZCF. We are also unaware of any other sanction options that were available to NZCF, with which we could draw a comparison.
45. Given that position the Tribunal elects not to express any view on the issue at all.

Decision

46. For the reasons set out above, the Tribunal is satisfied that the bans NZCF imposed on Mr Ang and Mr Ha were unlawful, invalid, and are now set aside.
47. At the Applicants' request, the Tribunal reserves the issue of costs, but reminds the parties of r. 30(b) of the Tribunal Rules which states:

The parties are encouraged to resolve the issue of costs between themselves as the Tribunal's usual approach is that costs will lie where they fall. If a party wishes to bring a costs application to the Tribunal this must be made within 14 days of the release of the final decision.

Final comments

48. The Tribunal considers that ultimately the issues in this proceeding arise from the absence of a clear and comprehensive disciplinary framework within NZCF's governing documents and the structure of the governance of chess in New Zealand. We appreciate that the NZCF Constitution has recently been updated as required by the *Incorporated Societies Act 2022*; yet NZCF may like to consider whether the observations that we identify below persist and need to also be remedied within their new governance arrangements and documentation.
49. The Tribunal was referred to various NZCF constitutional provisions, the Tournament Regulations, and the Complaints Policy and Bullying and Harassment Policy. Yet none set out in a comprehensive manner the scope of disciplinary jurisdiction, the categories of misconduct, the available penalties, and the procedural protections to be afforded to affected persons.⁸ This has given rise to uncertainty as to both the source and extent of NZCF's disciplinary powers, beyond tournaments, and the penalties available.
50. We note that FIDE International Chess Federation, the international governing body for chess, has created a dedicated *Ethics and Disciplinary Code* (EDC) with detailed provisions addressing misconduct, disciplinary jurisdiction, investigations, procedural fairness, sanctions, and appeals. Without expressing any view on the merits of those

⁸ Except the Tournament Regulations themselves which we have found are plainly directed only toward behaviour during tournaments based on their wording and structure.

provisions, we consider that NZCF may benefit from expressly incorporating or adopting all or part of the EDC within its own governance arrangements and/or rules and regulations. Such an approach would provide greater certainty to members, clubs and officials, promote consistency with international chess governance standards, and reduce the risk of future disputes regarding the existence or scope of disciplinary powers.

51. We emphasise that any such reform is a matter for NZCF and its members. However, if NZCF considers that serious misconduct related to chess, but occurring outside the immediate conduct of tournaments, should be capable of attracting disciplinary sanctions, then these powers and procedures need to be clearly and explicitly laid out within the organisation's governing documents.
52. Finally, the Tribunal notes with some surprise NZCF's submission at the hearing that, should the outcome of this proceeding not be in its favour, it would consider whether it is appropriate to refer this matter to FIDE under the EDC. The Tribunal finds that surprising for two reasons. First, Mr Ha's conduct took place in March 2025 and thus this disciplinary process has been ongoing now for a significant amount of time. Second, the possibility of a referral to FIDE was not raised in any of NZCF's filings or submissions to this Tribunal prior to the hearing. NZCF was not obliged to refer this dispute to the Tribunal by agreement, and the Tribunal does not form a part of NZCF's internal dispute procedure.⁹ Accordingly, the Tribunal has conducted the proceeding on the basis that its determination would provide a final resolution of the matter. While any question of a referral to FIDE is ultimately a matter for NZCF and FIDE, the Tribunal considers that such a matter ought to have been raised openly and at an earlier stage if it was regarded as a realistic possibility by NZCF.

Dated: 8 September 2026



John Macdonald
Tribunal Chair, for members of the
Tribunal Panel

⁹ The Form 9 (Application for resolution of sports-related dispute) jointly filed by the parties makes no mention of the Tribunal stepping in to perform any internal or national-level function for the NZCF, let alone the potential for further referral to FIDE.

Appendix One



NEW ZEALAND
CHESS
F E D E R A T I O N

TOURNAMENT REGULATIONS

NZCF TOURNAMENT REGULATIONS MAY 2023

1. GENERAL

1.1 SCHEDULE OF TOURNAMENTS

1.1.1 ANNUAL EVENTS

The following NZCF tournaments shall be held in each year:

New Zealand Championship
New Zealand Major Open Tournament
New Zealand Women's Championship
New Zealand Seniors Championship
New Zealand Junior and Age Group Championships
North Island Championship
South Island Championship
New Zealand Rapid Championship
North Island Rapid Championship
South Island Rapid Championship
New Zealand Lightning Championship

1.1.2 DATES, VENUES AND CONTROLLING AUTHORITIES

Where specific provision is not made in these regulations for allocation of the dates, venue and controlling authority of an NZCF tournament, these will be decided by Council.

1.1.3 APPLICATION OF NZCF REGULATIONS

All NZCF tournaments (see 1.1.1) and tournaments rated by NZCF or FIDE shall be conducted according to NZCF's rules and regulations unless the Council directs otherwise.

1.1.4 ELIGIBILITY FOR NORTH AND SOUTH ISLAND TITLES

New Zealand players are eligible to hold either the North Island Championship or the South Island Championship, but not both in the same year. Eligibility is determined by the location of the club through which the player is a member for that year, or if this does not apply (Lone Wolf Club members, or players who have not declared membership of a club) by the player's address at the time of entry.

1.1.5 SMOKING PROHIBITED

Smoking is not permitted in any room in which a chess competition is being played.

1.1.6 ELECTRONIC DEVICES IN TOURNAMENT HALL

The following shall apply to all FIDE-rated NZCF tournaments, unless Council agrees in writing to a variation in advance for a specific event.

Electronic devices belonging to players are permitted in the tournament hall provided they are always fully switched off and are not carried on a player's person during the game (starting when a player has made their first move). Players are permitted to store switched off devices in their bag, and to store the bag next to their board.

A switched off device stored in a jacket pocket is permissible, provided the jacket is not being worn (i.e. it is draped over the player's chair). For the purpose of clarification, under no circumstances is a device allowed in the bathrooms during play.

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Tournament spectators are permitted to carry switched-off devices including on their person in the tournament hall (with a 10-minute grace period allowed when the device may be on for taking photos at the start of each game).

Penalty guidelines: if a player has access to an electronic device in the bathroom, whether switched on or off, a default is automatic. Otherwise for minor or inadvertent breaches involving a switched off device, a first warning from the arbiter may be an appropriate penalty. For the purpose of this rule Electronic Devices are defined as a device which might reasonably be considered capable of being used as an electronic aid to chess playing.

1.1.7 NZCF WEBSITE SHALL BE OFFICIAL WEBSITE

All NZCF tournaments listed in 1.1.1 MUST be administered exclusively on the official NZCF Website www.newzealandchess.co.nz unless the NZCF Council directs otherwise. The NZCF Website address shall be listed prominently on the Entry Form as the "OFFICIAL TOURNAMENT WEBSITE". The tournament organizer shall publish advance entries, pairings and live games exclusively on the official NZCF WEBSITE and, to avoid any doubt or confusion, on no other website unless advance authorisation has been obtained from NZCF Council.

1.1.8 ENTRY FORM

The tournament organizer of any NZCF rated tournament and/or any FIDE rated tournament in New Zealand (but excluding internal Club events) must promptly supply the Entry Form in digital format to NZCF for approval and listing on the Calendar page of the official NZCF WEBSITE. The contact email address is NZCFcalendar@newzealandchess.co.nz. The Entry Form published on the NZCF WEBSITE shall be the official and definitive version. For the avoidance of any doubt or confusion, no other version of the Entry Form shall be permitted.

1.1.9 BYES

Unless otherwise stated on the entry form or tournament website, pairing-allocated byes are scored as one point. Tournaments may also provide for players to take half-point byes i.e. not be paired for a particular round and scored as one-half of a point. Where tournaments provide for these, players should not be able to take them in the last three rounds or take more than two in the tournament, and should be notified to an arbiter at least one round in advance or, for the first round, when entering. Availability and any restrictions or conditions should be stated on the entry form or tournament website. For NZCF tournaments, availability, restrictions and conditions should be agreed with the Council.

1.1.10 ELIGIBILITY OF TOURNAMENTS FOR RATING BY FIDE

All tournaments registered for rating by FIDE must be advertised as being rated by FIDE in the entry form and/or tournament website, and must also be advertised and submitted for rating by NZCF where possible.

1.2 TOURNAMENT ORGANISERS FOR NZCF TOURNAMENTS

1.2.1 BID AND APPOINTMENT OF CONTROLLING AUTHORITY AND TOURNAMENT ORGANISER

A controlling authority (which may be a club or regional association) bidding to organise an NZCF tournament shall provide a document to the Council in support of their bid outlining:

- Budget including sponsorship, entry fees, prize funds, levies, payment for officials, any support requested from Council, and any other expected income and expenditure
- Proposed dates, formats and time controls of all tournaments included in the bid
- Location and venue
- Proposed tournament organiser
- Any other information required in regulations for specific tournaments or requested by Council

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Council may provide budget and other document templates for controlling authorities bidding for tournaments and may request additional information it deems necessary.

Bids may be made at any time. When a satisfactory bid is received for any NZCF tournament or tournaments, Council may award the tournament(s) to the controlling authority and tournament organiser. Council may consider any factors it thinks fit in awarding the tournament but is not required to award a tournament. Where no bid is received within 18 months of Congress or 9 months of any other tournament, Council shall call for bids. Where no bid is received within 12 months of Congress or 6 months of any other tournament, Council may organise any event and appoint a tournament organiser directly.

1.2.2 DUTIES OF TOURNAMENT ORGANISER

The tournament organiser shall appoint the chief arbiter in consultation with the Council, appoint other arbiters in consultation with the chief arbiter and the Council, and make all such financial, social and other arrangements and do all such things as may be necessary or desirable for the conduct of the tournament, register NZCF events for FIDE rating (or delegate this to the chief arbiter), make regulations for the conduct of the tournament (or delegate this to the chief arbiter) provided that any regulations made are published on the tournament entry form or website in advance of the tournament and not in contravention of the Laws of Chess, NZCF Constitution or Regulations, or FIDE Regulations except to the extent permissible by same.

1.2.3 AUTHORITY OF NZCF COUNCIL

- a) Notwithstanding tournament rule 1.2.2 the Council shall always be deemed to have full authority over the organisation of an NZCF tournament and shall have power to direct in writing that its wishes be adhered to by the controlling authority or tournament organiser.
- b) The Council shall have power to change the venue of an NZCF tournament if the controlling authority declines to carry out the wishes of the Council.

1.3 FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE FROM N.Z.C.F.

1.3.1 POWER TO PROVIDE FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE FOR NZCF EVENTS

NZCF shall pay all FIDE rating fees for NZCF events and provide sufficient scoresheets for NZCF events where the proposed time control requires the recording of moves by the Laws of Chess.

The Council may approve other financial assistance such as paying shipping costs of NZCF equipment, guarantees against loss up to a specified limit, waiving tournament levies either partially or in full, or grants to controlling authorities of NZCF tournaments. Any financial assistance must be used solely for the organisation of the tournament.

1.3.2 TOURNAMENT REPORT

The controlling authority or tournament organiser must submit a tournament report including financial statement within two months of the completion of the tournament (also note the duty in 1.8.2 to send score sheets from the tournament to NZCF). Any controlling authority committing a breach of this regulation may be disqualified from receiving further financial assistance from NZCF for a period of up to ten years. The Chief Arbiter is responsible for submitting NZCF and FIDE rating reports.

1.3.3 REFUND OF FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

If other financial assistance is provided in terms of 1.3.1 and subsequently found to be in excess of the amount required to meet the expenses of the tournament, the balance remaining shall be refunded to NZCF by the controlling authority. If the tournament report required by 1.3.2 is not provided or significant irregularities are discovered, the Council may require the repayment of any

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financial assistance received, payment of levies, or not make any payments of financial assistance as the case may be.

1.4 SPONSORSHIP AND PUBLICITY

1.4.1 SPONSORSHIP GRANTS

Financial sponsorship arranged by the Council shall be deemed to be financial assistance from NZCF for the purposes of tournament rule 1.3.

1.4.2 PUBLICITY ARRANGEMENTS

Whenever an NZCF tournament is receiving sponsorship, the tournament organiser shall ensure that all publicity concerning the tournament carries the sponsor's name. The tournament organiser shall liaise with the media. Representatives of the sponsor shall be invited to all official functions during the course of the tournament.

1.5 TOURNAMENT ENTRIES

1.5.1 ENTRY FEES

Entry fees for NZCF tournaments shall be set by the Tournament Organiser in consultation with the Council.

1.5.2 CLOSING DATES FOR ENTRIES

The closing dates for entry and dates after which late entry fees apply for an NZCF tournament shall be fixed by the tournament organiser in consultation with the Council.

1.5.3 ENTRY FEES TO ACCOMPANY ENTRIES

The entry fee for an NZCF tournament must be paid at the same time as entering. Entries shall be disregarded until the entry fee is paid.

1.5.4 ENTRIES TO STATE CODE NUMBER

Every entry to an NZCF tournament shall include the player's NZCF rating code number and FIN (FIDE ID number).

1.6 THE DRAW

1.6.1 ROUND ROBIN TOURNAMENTS

The draw for round robin tournaments shall be made in accordance with Berger tables published by FIDE, and may be made manually or with FIDE-approved pairing software.

1.6.2 SWISS SYSTEM

Swiss system pairings shall be made using FIDE-approved pairing software in accordance with the FIDE regulations for Swiss tournaments for the time being in force. NZCF ratings shall be used for pairings unless otherwise stipulated on the entry form and/or tournament website.

1.6.3 PLAYING TIMETABLE

All games shall be played in the sessions as laid down in the official entry form or website unless the chief arbiter decides that exceptional circumstances necessitate a change. In no case shall a decision to alter the day or time of play in any round be left to one of the interested parties.

1.7 SCORING

1.7.1 GAME POINTS

The player who wins a game scores one point. Players who draw each score half a point.

1.7.2 TIE-BREAKING IN A ROUND-ROBIN

The following order of tie-breaks shall apply by default in all NZCF tournaments unless specified otherwise beforehand:

Direct Encounter

Most Wins

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Sonneborn-Berger
Koya
Most Wins with Black
Drawing of Lots

1.7.3 TIE-BREAKING IN A SWISS

The following order of tie-breaks shall apply by default in all NZCF tournaments unless specified otherwise beforehand:

Direct Encounter
Buchholz Cut 1
Buchholz
Most Wins
Most Wins with Black
Drawing of Lots

1.8 DUTIES OF PLAYERS

1.8.1 RECORD OF MOVES

In every game each player shall keep, on an official score sheet provided for the purpose, a correct record in any recognised notation of the moves on each side numbered in consecutive order.

1.8.2 OFFICIAL RECORD OF GAME

The players shall sign accurate legible copies of the game scores in algebraic notation to be handed in as required by the chief arbiter. The score sheets signed by the players shall be official records of the game and shall be the property of NZCF. Should one or both players refuse to cooperate the arbiter may accept such evidence as he thinks fit to ascertain the result of the game in question. Following the end of the tournament, all score sheets from the tournament shall be sent to NZCF by the Tournament Organiser unless agreed otherwise by the Council.

1.8.3 PRIVATE ARRANGEMENTS

No player may, without the sanction of the tournament organiser, make any arrangements with any other players (except such as is provided for in the FIDE Laws of Chess or in the NZCF rules and regulations) which might affect the result of the game or of the tournament.

1.9 WITHDRAWALS

1.9.1 NOTICE OF WITHDRAWAL

Notice of withdrawal from any NZCF tournament shall be forwarded to the tournament organiser who shall decide whether or not the entry fee shall be refunded.

1.9.2 REFUND OF ENTRY FEE

The entry fee of every entrant who withdraws after commencing play shall be forfeited. The Council may decide that any player who withdraws after the commencement of play in any tournament shall forfeit the right to play in future tournaments.

1.9.3 CANCELLATION OF RESULTS

If at the time of withdrawing from a round robin a player has played less than half of his games the results of his games shall be cancelled.

1.10 APPEALS

1.10.1 RIGHT OF APPEAL

A player may appeal any ruling of an arbiter provided that such appeal is made in writing to the chief arbiter immediately after the ruling and before the appellant has made any subsequent move.

1.10.2 APPEALS COMMITTEE

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An appeal shall be referred to an appeals committee of three disinterested persons who may have been elected by a prior meeting of players or who may be appointed by the tournament organiser.

1.10.3 WEIGHT OF EVIDENCE

The appeals committee must give pre-eminent weight to the arbiter's testimony as regards anything which occurred in his presence. The committee shall give its decision in writing to the chief arbiter.

1.10.4 FURTHER RIGHT OF APPEAL

Notwithstanding the above rules both players shall have the further right of appeal to the Council, provided that the procedures set out in tournament rules 1.10.1, 1.10.2 and 1.10.3 have first been properly exhausted. An appeal must be lodged within seven days of the last day of the tournament. An appeal to the Council cannot be made on a question of fact. An appeal which fails to meet these provisions is void.

1.10.5 ABSOLUTE DISCRETION

In exercising the power conferred in tournament rule 1.10.4 the Council shall have absolute discretion as to the evidence it acts upon and as to the right of any member affected or other person to be heard.

1.10.6 ALTERATION OF RESULTS

In extreme circumstances the Council, on upholding an appeal, shall have the discretion to alter the result of any game or games affected and may make consequential alterations to the final placings or the award of titles. In addition the Council may direct the controlling authority to compensate any player for loss of prize money arising from the decision appealed against.

1.10.7 INTERPRETATION OF RULES

A decision of the Council on an appeal shall establish an interpretation of the rule or rules in question. Such decision shall be published on the NZCF website and shall be applied in all future NZCF tournaments or NZCF-rated games.

1.11 CONDUCT OF PLAYERS

1.11.1 POWER TO BAN PLAYERS

The Council shall have power to ban from future NZCF tournaments and other NZCF-rated tournaments any player who wilfully infringes the NZCF or FIDE's rules or regulations or whose conduct is offensive, dishonourable or detrimental to the interests, welfare or standing of chess.

1.11.2 ABSOLUTE DISCRETION

In exercising the power conferred in tournament rule 1.11.1 the Council shall have absolute discretion as to the evidence it acts upon and as to the right of any player affected or other person to be heard.

1.11.3 NOTICE OF BANNING

Notice of banning from tournaments shall be given in writing to the offending player by the secretary.

1.11.4 RIGHT OF APPEAL

Any player banned from NZCF or other rated tournaments shall have the right of appeal to an independent tribunal of three persons appointed by the Council. Such appeal shall be made in writing to the secretary within fourteen days of receipt of the notice of banning.

1.11.5 PUBLICATION OF NAME

The name of any player banned from NZCF and other rated tournaments and the duration of ban shall be published on the NZCF website.

1.12 PRIZES AND TROPHIES

1.12.1 PRIZE MONEY

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The controlling authority shall take steps to ensure that the prize money is as attractive as the position allows.

1.12.2 TIES

In the event of a tie in any tournament the prize money shall be shared equally among the tied players and they shall be jointly awarded the trophy or trophies.

1.12.3 ENGRAVING COSTS

The Council shall reimburse trophy winners for the costs of engraving their names.

1.12.4 RATING-BASED PRIZES

The same ratings shall be used for rating-based prizes as used for pairing (see 1.6.2).

2. ANNUAL CONGRESS

2.1 GENERAL

2.1.1 EVENTS

The Annual Congress shall consist of the New Zealand Championship, the Major Open, the New Zealand Rapid Championship, the New Zealand Lightning Championship, the New Zealand Junior and Age Group Championships and such subsidiary tournaments as the controlling authority shall decide.

2.1.2 DATES

The Annual Congress shall be held in January.

2.1.3 FORMAT OF THE NEW ZEALAND CHAMPIONSHIP AND MAJOR OPEN

The New Zealand Championship and Major Open may be organised as separate tournaments or combined if agreed by Council as part of the bid. If separate, they shall be played concurrently on the same dates with the same round times and time control.

2.1.4 VENUE

The venue of Congress shall be fixed by the Council not later than six months prior to the start of the Congress.

2.1.5 COUNCIL DISCRETION

Council at its discretion may alter the annual Congress tournament dates, pairing systems and format by agreement with the controlling authority, including the time controls, if required or desirable to facilitate the conduct of the annual Congress.

2.2 NEW ZEALAND CHAMPIONSHIP

2.2.1 NEW ZEALAND CHAMPION

The New Zealand player who attains the highest place in the New Zealand Championship tournament shall be styled Chess Champion of New Zealand until the close of the following New Zealand Championship tournament.

2.2.2 SWISS SYSTEM

The Championship tournament shall be conducted as a swiss with a minimum of nine rounds and twenty players, except as provided under tournament rule 2.2.9.

2.2.3 PLAYING TIMES AND SCHEDULE

There shall be one playing session each day which starts between 1pm and 3pm and is a minimum of an hour and a half after any games, based on a 60 move game, played in the morning as part of other events.

Players eligible for the Championship tournament are those rated 2000 or higher on the latest NZCF standard rating list or 2100 or higher on the latest FIDE rating list.

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2.2.4 TIME CONTROL

The time control shall be any acceptable FIDE standard time control that allows for title norms and has an increment sufficient to require notation be kept for every move.

2.2.5 OPEN OR CLOSED CHAMPIONSHIP AND ELIGIBILITY FOR A CLOSED CHAMPIONSHIP

Whether the Championship is open to all entries, or to New Zealand players only, or entry is restricted based on rating, shall be included in the bid and agreed with Council. When entry to the Championship is restricted based on rating, players may be eligible to enter the Championship tournament based on rating or automatic qualification. Players eligible on rating are those rated 2000 or higher on any NZCF standard rating list or 2100 or higher on any FIDE standard rating list since the most recent Congress. Players eligible based on automatic qualification are the:

- Current New Zealand Champion
- Current Major Open Champion
- Current New Zealand Junior Champion
- Current North Island Champion
- Current South Island Champion

2.2.6 INVITATIONS TO OVERSEAS PLAYERS

Where the Championship is not restricted to New Zealand players (see 2.2.5), the Council and controlling authority may agree to invite overseas players. Such invitees may be offered conditions and will be chosen to enhance the status of the tournament or improve international title norm possibilities.

2.2.7 SPECIAL CASE APPLICATIONS

Any New Zealand player who does not qualify for the Championship where entry is restricted by rating (see 2.2.8) but who nevertheless wishes to be considered for selection may apply to be treated as a special case. Such an entry shall be sent to the tournament organiser and NZCF Secretary and considered by the Council or selectors appointed by Council. The onus is on the applicant to prove exceptional circumstances and the Council or selectors must be reasonably certain that the player's actual strength is consistent with the principles of 2.2.5. The effect of the player's selection on their development and the tournament as a whole may be taken into account.

2.2.8 EFFECT OF SMALL ENTRY

If, after the application of the above rules, there are no more than 10 entries then, notwithstanding tournament regulation 2.2.2, the Championship shall be conducted as a round-robin of 10 players. If the Championship is intended to be conducted over more than nine rounds, these numbers may be adjusted accordingly.

2.2.9 FILLING VACANT PLACES

If the Championship field, whether a Swiss or round robin, is not filled by the application of the above rules, the vacant place or places shall be offered in succession to the highest-rated players entered in the Major Open. This rule shall be used, if necessary, to avoid having a bye in the Championship tournament. Any player promoted shall pay the difference between the Major Open and Championship entry fees.

2.2.10 OLYMPIAD SELECTION

The New Zealand Champion shall be selected automatically for the New Zealand Olympiad team if eligible and available, and subject to any requirements set by the Council of all Olympiad team members. This shall only apply if the title of New Zealand Champion is not shared, and only in an Olympiad selection year as agreed by Council and noted on the entry form and tournament website

2.3 MAJOR OPEN

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2.3.1 MAJOR OPEN CHAMPION

The New Zealand player who attains the highest place in the Major Open tournament shall be styled New Zealand Major Open Champion until the close of the next such tournament. If the New Zealand Championship and Major Open are combined into one tournament (see 2.1.3), the New Zealand player who attains the highest place of those who meet the criteria in 2.3.2 shall be styled the New Zealand Major Open Champion until the close of the next such tournament.

2.3.2 ELIGIBLE PLAYERS

No player with a current New Zealand standard rating of 2100 or higher shall be eligible to play in the Major Open.

Note: Players with an NZCF rating from 2000 to 2099 are eligible to play in either the New Zealand Championship or Major Open. This rule would not exclude from the Major Open a player with an NZCF rating of 2099 even if his FIDE rating was over 2100. Also, any player applying for, but not receiving, special consideration for his Championship entry would be eligible to play in the Major Open.

2.4 NEW ZEALAND RAPID CHAMPIONSHIP

2.4.1 NEW ZEALAND RAPID CHAMPION

The New Zealand player who attains the highest place in the New Zealand Rapid Championship tournament shall be styled Rapid Chess Champion of New Zealand until the close of the following New Zealand Rapid Championship tournament.

2.4.2 SWISS SYSTEM

The Rapid Championship tournament shall be conducted as an open swiss tournament with between seven and ten rounds.

2.4.3 TIME CONTROL

Time control shall be any acceptable FIDE rapid time control that has an increment.

2.4.4 PLAYING TIMES AND SCHEDULE

The Rapid Championship shall be played either immediately before or after the conclusion of the New Zealand Championship event unless the Council agrees otherwise to facilitate the conduct of the New Zealand Championship as an international tournament. The Rapid Championship shall be played over one or two days. Round times shall provide sufficient time between rounds to provide at least 15 minutes assuming a 60 move game and one lunch break per day of at least 30 minutes where rounds are played in the morning and afternoon.

2.5 NEW ZEALAND LIGHTNING CHAMPIONSHIP

2.5.1 NEW ZEALAND LIGHTNING CHAMPION

The New Zealand player who attains the highest place in the New Zealand Lightning Championship tournament shall be styled Lightning Chess Champion of New Zealand until the close of the following New Zealand Lightning Championship tournament.

2.5.2 SWISS SYSTEM

The Lightning Championship tournament shall be conducted as an open swiss tournament with between seven and ten rounds.

2.5.3 TIME CONTROL

Time control shall be any acceptable FIDE lightning time control that has an increment.

2.5.4 PLAYING TIMES AND SCHEDULE

The Lightning Championship shall be played either immediately before or after the conclusion of the New Zealand Rapid Championship event. Round times shall provide sufficient time between rounds to provide at least 5 minutes assuming a 60 move game.

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3. OTHER NZCF TOURNAMENTS

3.1 NEW ZEALAND WOMEN'S CHAMPIONSHIP

3.1.1 NEW ZEALAND WOMEN'S CHAMPION

The New Zealand player who attains the highest place in the New Zealand Women's Championship tournament shall be styled New Zealand Women's Champion until the close of the next such tournament.

3.1.2 TOURNAMENT FORMAT

The New Zealand Women's Championship shall be conducted as a swiss tournament with a minimum of seven rounds.

3.1.3 DATES AND VENUE

The New Zealand Women's Championship shall be held on dates agreed by the controlling authority and the Council but shall not be held on the same dates as another NZCF tournament.

3.1.4 TIME CONTROL

The time control shall be any acceptable FIDE standard time control that allows for title norms and has an increment sufficient to require notation be kept for every move.

3.1.5 PLAYING TIMES AND SCHEDULE

There shall be either one or two playing sessions each day. Where there are two sessions scheduled for one day, there shall be one morning and one afternoon round, with a minimum of an hour and a half between the two sessions, based on a 60 move game.

3.1.6 COUNCIL DISCRETION

Notwithstanding anything in these regulations Council may at the request of the controlling authority, approve the alteration of the timing, format or time controls for the New Zealand Women's Championship if it is satisfied that any such alteration will contribute to the effective conduct of the championship.

3.2 NEW ZEALAND JUNIOR AND AGE GROUP CHAMPIONSHIPS

3.2.1 TOURNAMENT FORMAT

The New Zealand Junior Championship shall be a swiss tournament with a minimum of six rounds.

3.2.2 DATES AND VENUE

The New Zealand Junior and Age Group Championships shall be held as part of Congress commencing on the second day of the New Zealand Championship unless otherwise agreed by the Council. There shall be one playing session each day held in the morning.

3.2.3 TIME CONTROL

The time control shall be any acceptable FIDE standard time control that has an increment sufficient to require notation be kept for every move

3.2.4 NEW ZEALAND JUNIOR CHAMPION

The New Zealand player who attains the highest place in the New Zealand Junior Championship tournament shall be styled New Zealand Junior Champion until the close of the next such tournament.

3.2.5 AGE LIMIT

The New Zealand Junior Championship shall be restricted to players who have not attained the age of twenty (20) before 1st January in the year in which the tournament is held.

3.2.6 ELIGIBILITY FOR WORLD JUNIOR CHAMPIONSHIP

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The New Zealand Junior Champion shall be entitled to represent New Zealand in the immediately following World Junior Championship.

3.2.7 NEW ZEALAND SCHOOLPUPIL CHAMPION

The New Zealand player who attains the highest place in the New Zealand Junior and Age Group Championships and is enrolled in primary or secondary school in the most recent or current year will be styled the New Zealand Schoolpupil Champion until close of the next such tournament.

3.2.8 NEW ZEALAND JUNIOR GIRLS CHAMPION

The New Zealand female player who attains the highest place in the New Zealand Junior and Age Group Championships will be styled the New Zealand Junior Girls Champion until close of the next such tournament.

3.2.9 NEW ZEALAND SCHOOLGIRLS CHAMPION

The New Zealand female player who attains the highest place in the New Zealand Junior and Age Group Championships and is enrolled in primary or secondary school in the most recent or current year will be styled the New Zealand Schoolgirls Champion until close of the next such tournament.

3.2.10 AGE GROUP CHAMPIONSHIPS

The eligible New Zealand players who attain the highest places in the New Zealand Junior and Age Group Championships will be styled the New Zealand Age Group Champions until close of the next such tournament. The age groups shall be under 16, under 14, under 12, under 10 and under 8. Players are eligible for an age group if they have not yet attained the relevant age before 1 January in the year in which the tournament is held but are only eligible for the age group nearest their own age.

3.3 NORTH ISLAND CHAMPIONSHIP

3.3.1 SWISS SYSTEM

The North Island Championship tournament shall be conducted as an open swiss tournament with a minimum of eight rounds.

3.3.2 TIME CONTROL

The time control shall be any acceptable FIDE standard time control that allows for title norms and has an increment sufficient to require notation be kept for every move.

3.3.3 DATES, PLAYING TIMES, SCHEDULE

The North Island Championship shall be held in the school holidays between the second and third term in the school year. There shall be either one or two playing sessions each day. Where there are two sessions scheduled for one day, there shall be one morning and one afternoon round, with a minimum of an hour and a half between the two sessions, based on a 60 move game.

3.3.4 NORTH ISLAND CHAMPION

The North Island player who attains the highest place in the North Island Championship tournament shall be styled North Island Champion until the close of the following North Island Championship.

3.3.5 COUNCIL DISCRETION

Notwithstanding anything in these regulations Council may at the request of the controlling authority, approve the alteration of the timing, format or time controls for the North Island Championship if it is satisfied that any such alteration will contribute to the effective conduct of the championship.

3.4 NORTH ISLAND RAPID CHAMPIONSHIP

3.4.1 DATE AND VENUE

The North Island Rapid Championship shall be held either immediately before or following, and at the same venue as the North Island Championship unless otherwise agreed with Council.

3.4.2 PLAYING TIMES, SCHEDULE, FORMAT AND TIME CONTROLS

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The North Island Rapid Championship shall be an open swiss system tournament with a minimum of six rounds. The time control shall be any acceptable FIDE rapid time control that has an increment. Round times shall provide sufficient time between rounds to provide at least 15 minutes and a lunch break of at least 30 minutes, both assuming a 60 move game.

3.4.3 NORTH ISLAND RAPID CHAMPION

The North Island player who attains the highest place in the North Island Rapid Championship tournament shall be styled North Island Rapid Champion until the close of the following North Island Rapid Championship.

3.5 SOUTH ISLAND CHAMPIONSHIP

3.5.1 SWISS SYSTEM

The South Island Championship tournament shall be conducted as an open swiss tournament with a minimum of eight rounds.

3.5.2 TIME CONTROL

The time control shall be any acceptable FIDE standard time control that allows for title norms and has an increment sufficient to require notation be kept for every move.

3.5.3 DATES, PLAYING TIMES AND SCHEDULE

The South Island Championship shall be held in the school holidays between the third and fourth term in the school year. There shall be either one or two playing sessions each day. Where there are two sessions scheduled for one day, there shall be one morning and one afternoon round, with a minimum of an hour and a half between the two sessions, based on a 60 move game.

3.5.4 SOUTH ISLAND CHAMPION

The South Island player who attains the highest place in the South Island Championship tournament shall be styled South Island Champion until the close of the following South Island Championship..

3.5.5 COUNCIL DISCRETION

Notwithstanding anything in these regulations Council may at the request of the organising authority, approve the alteration of the timing, format or time controls for the South Island Championship if it is satisfied that any such alteration will contribute to the effective conduct of the championship.

3.6 SOUTH ISLAND RAPID CHAMPIONSHIP

3.6.1 DATE AND VENUE

The South Island Rapid Championship shall be held either immediately before or following, and at the same venue as the South Island Championship unless otherwise agreed with Council.

3.6.2 PLAYING TIMES, SCHEDULE, FORMAT AND TIME CONTROLS

The South Island Rapid Championship shall be an open swiss system tournament with a minimum of six rounds. The time control shall be any acceptable FIDE rapid time control that has an increment. Round times shall provide sufficient time between rounds to provide at least 15 minutes and a lunch break of at least 30 minutes, both assuming a 60 move game.

3.6.3 SOUTH ISLAND RAPID CHAMPION

The South Island player who attains the highest place in the South Island Rapid Championship tournament shall be styled South Island Rapid Champion until the close of the following South Island Championship.

3.7 NEW ZEALAND SENIORS CHAMPIONSHIP

3.7.1 NEW ZEALAND SENIOR AND VETERAN CHAMPIONS

The New Zealand player who attains the highest place in the New Zealand Seniors Championship tournament shall be styled New Zealand Senior Champion until the close of the next such tournament. The New Zealand veteran (see 4.3) player who attains the highest place in the New

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Zealand Seniors Championship tournament shall be styled New Zealand Veteran Champion until the close of the next such tournament.

3.7.2 SWISS SYSTEM

The New Zealand Seniors Championship shall be conducted as a swiss tournament with a minimum of six rounds.

3.7.3 DATES

The New Zealand Seniors Championship shall be held on dates agreed by the controlling authority and the Council but shall not be held on the same dates as another NZCF tournament.

3.7.4 TIME CONTROL

The time control shall be any acceptable FIDE standard time control that allows for title norms and has an increment sufficient to require notation be kept for every move.

3.7.5 PLAYING TIMES AND SCHEDULE

There shall be either one or two playing sessions each day. Where there are two sessions scheduled for one day, there shall be one morning and one afternoon round, with a minimum of an hour and a half between the two sessions, based on a 60 move game.

3.7.6 AGE LIMIT

The New Zealand Seniors Championship shall be limited to who have or will attain the age of 50 during the year of the tournament (see 4.2).

3.7.7 COUNCIL DISCRETION

Notwithstanding anything in these regulations Council may at the request of the controlling authority, approve the alteration of the timing, format or time controls for the New Zealand Seniors Championship if it is satisfied that any such alteration will contribute to the effective conduct of the championship.

4. AGE RANGE DEFINITIONS

4.1. JUNIOR

All chess players who shall not have reached the age of **xx** before January 1st of the year in which the tournaments are held are eligible to participate. Where **xx** is 08,10,12 etc...

4.2 SENIOR

50+ Must have reached or will reach the required age (50) during the year of competition.

4.3 VETERAN

65+ Must have reached or will reach the required age (65) during the year of competition

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