

Constitution of Steinitz Chess Club:

Title:

The Club shall be known as the Steinitz Chess Club, hereafter referred to as the Club.

Mission:

The Steinitz Chess Club is a non-profit organization with the following mission;

- a) To bring together all people, young and old, interested in chess and to provide a platform for all interested parties to meet regularly and enjoy chess.
- b) To promote the highest possible standards of chess.
- c) To promote the interest of chess amongst all its members.
- d) And to plough back into the community by using chess as a tool to make a positive impact in the lives of youngsters, especially from the disadvantaged communities of Belhar and Delft.

Members and Membership:

- a) The Club shall consist of an unlimited number of members.
- b) Membership shall be open to any person (without discrimination) who can play or who want to learn how to play chess.
- c) Applications for membership shall be made to the committee via the Secretary on the prescribed form. Membership shall be at the discretion of the committee; the committee has the right to expel any member on grounds considered sufficient by the committee.
- d) All Members shall be entitled to vote at meetings. Members shall be classified into one of the following categories:
 1. Honorary Members, who shall pay no subscription, but shall enjoy all the privileges of the Club,
 2. Ordinary Members, who have paid the annual subscription, shall enjoy all the privileges of the Club. Pensioners shall be regarded as Ordinary Members but shall pay a reduced annual subscription as decided at the AGM.
 3. Junior Members, who have paid the annual subscription, shall enjoy all the privileges of the Club.

Subscriptions:

Annual subscriptions shall be decided at the AGM. Annual subscriptions are payable before the end of February each year. Members who join the Club after 31 March of each year may be required to pay a pro-rata subscription as decided by the Treasurer.

Club Privileges:

Members of the Club will be entitled to the following privileges;

- a) Chess coaching, more advanced chess lessons (free of charge). These lessons will also be available every Thursday just after the Beginner lessons. (16:30 to 17:30) These lessons are aimed at improving the current playing strength of the clubs members. Activities will include;
 - a. Workshops by experts, i.e. chess champions
 - b. Analysis of games (Master games and the games of the players)
 - c. Tactics Drills
 - d. Opening Discussions
 - e. Blindfold chess, Solitaire chess and other visualization exercises.
 - f. Any other activities as decided by the Club Executive.
- b) The Club shall automatically register all paid up members to CHESSA (Chess South Africa).
- c) Regular Club tournaments will be arranged by the Tournament Organizer. Members will be kept up to date with other tournaments being played and will be entitled to enter under the Club's name.
- d) Chess literature aimed at improving the chess knowledge of the player will be made available to all Chess Club members free of charge.
- e) Enjoyment of Chess! The Chess Club will meet every Thursday just after the Coaching sessions where all players are welcome to come and enjoy chess. These open chess evenings are not just limited to chess members and are open to all people interested in chess.

The Committee:

- a) The committee shall consist of the following: President, Vice President, Treasurer, Secretary, Club Captain and Additional committee members. The committee members shall be individually elected at the AGM, and one person may hold more than one post on the committee but not more than two, provided that there is a minimum of four persons on the committee. Committee members shall eligible for re-election each year.
- b) The committee shall be responsible for the management of the club, subjected to the provisions of the constitution.
- c) The committee shall meet as and when required to discuss the business of the Club, A quorum of three members is required.
- d) The committee shall have the power to fill any vacancies that may occur, to co-opt anyone when necessary and to appoint sub-committees.
- e) The committee shall be responsible for the selection of representatives' teams and the appointment of team captains.
- f) The committee shall be responsible for arranging tournaments and matches.
- g) At every meeting, each member of the committee shall have a vote and the chairman shall have a casting vote.

Meetings:

The Annual General Meeting (AGM) shall be held during December each year. Special General Meetings (SGM) may be held at any time at (a) the discretion of the committee or (b) by a minimum of 50% of bona fide members to discuss specific matters should the occasion arise. Only the specific matter for which the SGM is held may be discussed at the meeting. Notice of any meeting shall be posted or least three weeks prior to the date of the meeting. The required quorum at any meeting shall be 50% of bona fide members.

The President:

- a) The president shall be elected every year at the AGM.
- b) He shall be the chairperson at all Club and committee meetings. In his absence a deputy shall be chosen by those present to act as chairman.
- c) He shall have signing powers for the withdrawal of moneys from the Club's bank account.

The Treasurer:

- a) The treasurer shall be elected every year at the AGM.
- b) He shall keep an accurate and faithful record of the Club's income and expenditure.
- c) He shall prepare a financial statement each year for scrutiny and approval at the AGM.

The Secretary

- a) The treasurer shall be elected every year at the AGM.
- b) His duties shall be:
 - i. To keep in his custody all available records of the Club.
 - ii. To keep accurate minutes of all meeting and to distribute such minutes as required.
 - iii. To receive and keep the committee informed of, all correspondence.
 - iv. To perform all secretarial work of the Club and to carry out directions give to him by the committee.
 - v. To maintain an assets register.
 - vi. He shall have signing powers for the withdrawal of moneys from the Club's bank account.

The Club Captain:

- a) The Club Captain shall be elected every year at the AGM.
- b) He shall be captain of the Club first team, if he is selected for this team.
- c) Together with the Tournament Organizer he shall be the adjudicator (or arrange adjudication where necessary) when required in all club matches.

The Tournament Organizer:

- a) The Tournament Organizer shall be elected every year at the AGM.
- b) He shall be responsible for arranging all tournaments and matches as decided by the committee. If qualified he shall act as tournament director or arrange this accordingly.
- c) He shall be responsible for collating tournament results and presenting these to the committee.

The Additional Committee Member:

- a) The additional committee member shall be elected every year at the AGM.
- b) His duties shall be determined by the committee as required and could include acting as vice president when necessary.

Delegates:

When delegates are required to attend meetings in the interest of the Club, the committee shall appoint such delegates.

Amendments to this constitution:

Any proposed amendment to this constitution must be handed to the Secretary who will in consultation with the committee forward copies of the proposed amendments to all members at least one month before the date of a Special General Meeting at which meeting only the proposed amendments may be discussed.

Dissolution:

Should it become necessary to dissolve the Club, the committee or a group of remaining members shall call a meeting which shall be chaired by the President or failing him any committee member present or someone appointed from those present.

Those present shall decide how to dispose of the Club's assets. Any monies arising out of such disposal shall be distributed equally between the remaining bona-fide members of the Club or however they decide. Thereafter the Club shall cease to exist