



CHESS WESTERN PROVINCE YOUTH COMMISSION

2021 YOUTH STRATEGY

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CWP Youth Commission – 2021 Youth Strategy

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1. OVERVIEW OF CWP YOUTH STRATEGY FOR 2021

1.1 Objectives of the CWP Youth Commission

The objectives of the CWP Youth Commission for 2021 are as follows:

- 1.1.1 To actively market and promote chess as a sport, recreational and educational activity for youth chess players (i.e. under 20 years).
- 1.1.2 To increase the number of youth chess players actively and regularly participating in chess activities.
- 1.1.3 To organise or facilitate regional championships for youth chess players.
- 1.1.4 To select representative players at all levels for participation in any tournaments whether same be local or international.
- 1.1.5 To award local colours in terms of the criteria laid down in the Rules and Regulations.
- 1.1.6 To facilitate the involvement of players and teams in Inter-Regional tournaments and championships.
- 1.1.7 To identify, train and develop promising youth chess players.

1.2 Activities of the CWP Youth Commission

The CWP Youth Commission will achieve its principle objectives by, inter alia, the following activities:

- 1.2.1 To host regular chess tournaments for youth chess players (online and over-the-board) and use these as a basis for team selection for future events.
- 1.2.2 Host regular training interventions aimed at beginner, intermediate and advanced chess players.
- 1.2.3 To select and prepare youth chess players to participate in the South African Junior Chess Championships (SAJCC) and other appropriate tournaments.

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Covid-19

The Covid-19 outbreak has had a serious impact on all sport activities in the world and chess is no exception.

The health and safety of all youth chess players, coaches, arbiters and administrators and their families is our utmost priority. To this extent we plan to implement the highest level of preventative measures to protect our chess families.

Although we have seen a decline in infections and deaths, coupled with a reduction in alert levels, we as a chess community need to ensure that we proceed with caution.

We intend to monitor the pandemic and related alert levels and cautiously begin to return to over-the-board (OTB) activities in a responsible manner. To this end, we plan to host smaller over-the-board events for youth players which will be by invitation only based on performances in qualifying online events.

A major challenge is complying with Covid-19 protocols for our youngest chess players as we are required to create a compliance “bubble” surrounding the event which will require that players do not leave the playing venue throughout the duration of the event including between rounds. Furthermore spectators (i.e. parents or coaches) will not be allowed to enter the playing venue throughout the event.

We will be hosting a DCAS funded Covid-19 officer training for parent volunteers, arbiters and coaches to assist in meeting the various regulatory requirements at in-person events. Training will comprise a 1 - 1.5 hours online course to be held in May 2021 presented by the CWP compliance officer. In order to execute our strategy and return to over-the-board events it is vital that we have sufficient trained officers for our events.

Online chess

Due to the ongoing Covid-19 pandemic and related regulations, we intend to host a combination of online and over-the-board events. These online events will serve as qualifying events for invitation to over-the-board events and will be taken into consideration when performing CWP youth team selections.

Online chess offers a convenient and relatively cheap alternative to hosting over-the-board chess events and afford our local youth chess players a wonderful opportunity to participate in national and international tournaments.

There are currently 4 main online platforms, namely:

- Lichess.org (free to use)
- Chess.com (free to use with premium options)
- Tornelo (free to use)
- Chesskid (free to use with premium options)



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Furthermore, we expect most national and international events over the next year will be held online, most likely in a hybrid format which will see players competing online at dedicated chess centres under the supervision of an arbiter.

To this extent we intend to assist our players to prepare for these events and we plan to create chess centres for active players to participate in national and international events like the SAJCCC.

In the long-term, it is not our intention to replace any traditional OTB chess events but we believe that online chess events should be an additional permanent feature on the CWP events calendar.

Fair play

We acknowledge that online chess has its risks and challenges, most notably the issue of cheating in various forms. Although the available technology used by the platforms is increasing at a rapid rate, we understand that the risk cannot be completely eliminated but we believe that it can be reduced to an acceptable level.

We intend to implement the following measures:

- Being clear in the tournament regulations regarding cheating
- Utilise the respective online platforms anti-cheating processes
- Education of players (and parents) as to what is considered cheating, process to report players to the platform and the relevant sanctions.
- Remove anonymity of players (i.e. real names in Lichess profiles)
- Post-tournament game analysis on a sample basis

It is generally accepted that the Tornelo platform has the best fair play review and reporting processes and we aim to migrate all official events to this platform in due course.

Chess SA Ratings

We intend to have all online events Chess SA rated.

*Please note that Chess SA ratings have been split between over-the-board, online and hybrid (which is combination of the two). **Online ratings will NOT impact a players over-the-board rating.***

Chess SA Ratings Database:

<https://chessa.co.za/ratingsdatabase/ratingsdatabase.aspx>

Hybrid events at chess centres may be FIDE rated.

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2. TOURNAMENT STRATEGY

In order to meet our objective within the Youth Commission to increase the number of active chess players and to develop elite youth, we propose a multi-levelled approach in delivering youth tournaments.

We envisage hosting youth tournaments, alternating between the following entry criteria:

- Age sections (per SAJCC age groups for 2021)
- Rating sections as determined from time-to-time
 - Players within 50 rating points will be allowed to play in higher section
 - Players with more than 50 rating points difference may apply to the Youth Director / Tournament Director to play in higher section.

Organisers will reserve the right to combine or adjust the sections to ensure sufficient players for each section.

We intend to host multiple tournament series throughout the year which will be used as a basis to select training squads. The tournament series will initially comprise the following events:

2.1 Level 1 Tournaments (online)

- Open to all CWP youth players (under 20)
- Online rapid tournaments
- Platform: Lichess.org (*ultimately migrating to Tornelo*)
- Minimum 5 rounds swiss (*increase to 7 rounds based on number of participants*)
- Time control: 20 minutes + 5 seconds increment (approx. 1 hour per round)
- Chess SA rated
- Entry fees: R150 (*for both qualifiers & Wild Card events and 4 hours of group training*)
- Prizes: Digital Certificates for top 10 and medals for top 3
- Timing considerations:
 - Option 1: Under 8 – 14 (primary school) in the morning, Under 16 – 20 in afternoon.
 - Option 2: Host all tournaments on a Saturday afternoon to avoid conflicts with other sports traditionally played on Saturday morning.
- All participants receive access to free online group training via Zoom hosted by CWP Youth appointed coach(es).
- We plan to host 2 rounds of level 1 tournaments in each series to ensure that as many players are able to participate.

Challenges:

- *Access to data and devices – Data sponsorship will be made available by CWP (see point 2.6.3 below). Investigate using schools/club facilities.*

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2.2 Level 2 Tournaments (hybrid)

- By invitation – top players in respective sections of level 1 tournament
- Online rapid tournaments to be played at dedicated chess centres under the supervision of arbiters.
 - 4 centres across districts hosting approx. 30 players in each centre
 - Additional / private centres may be considered provided cost of additional arbiters can be covered.
- Platform: Tornelo (consider Lichess for under 12)
- 5 rounds swiss
- Time control:
 - Under 8 – 12: 15+0 (increasing to 30+0) – *total duration: +-3 hours*
 - Under 14 – 20: 30+5 - *total duration: +-6 hours*
- Chess SA & FIDE rated
- Entry fees: R 50 to cover venue and Covid compliance costs
- Prizes: Digital Certificates for all participants and medals for top 3

The Youth Commission reserves the right to expand sections and invite suitable candidates that may not have qualified based on the merits on a case-by-case basis (Wild card).

2.3 Level 3 Tournaments (over the board)

- By invitation – top players in respective sections of level 2 tournament
- Over the Board
- 5 rounds swiss (one day)
- Time control:
 - Under 8 – 12: 15+0 (increasing to 30+0) – *total duration: +-3 hours*
 - Under 14 – 20: 60+0 - *total duration: +-11 hours*
- Chess SA rated
- Entry fees: R 100 to cover venue and Covid compliance costs
- Prizes: Trophies to top 3

The Youth Commission reserves the right to expand sections and invite suitable candidates that may not have qualified based on the merits on a case-by-case basis (Wild card).

To increase the level of participation and motivation for the minority groups, special consideration will be given to under 8 and girl players who missed out on above qualification by increasing number of invitations in each event (subject to availability) and establishing girl-only sections for certain age groups.



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2.4 Wild Card Practice Events (online)

The purpose of these events is to familiarise youth players with the Tornelo platform which has been used by FIDE for most major online events in recent months:

- Open to all Western Cape players
- Tornelo (*use of Zoom monitoring to be considered for highest divisions*)
- Minimum 5 rounds swiss (*increase to 7 rounds based on number of participants*)
- Time control: 20 minutes + 5 seconds increment (*approx. 1 hour per round*)
- Chess SA rated
- Entry fees: R50 for non-CWP players
- Highest CWP finisher in top 5 of each section gets automatic entry to Hybrid and OTB event.
- Prizes: Digital Certificates for top 10 and medals for top 3



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2.5 Proposed Tournament Series Timelines

We envisage the inaugural tournament series running as follows (*dates are subject to change depending on venue and other logistical arrangements*):

Week 1: 17 April 2021

- Saturday: Level 1 tournament (online Lichess)

Week 2: 24 April 2021

- Saturday: Level 1 tournament (online Lichess)

School holidays for public schools – 23 April 2021 to 2 May 2021

Week 3: 30 April - 1 May 2021

- Friday: Group coaching via Zoom
- Saturday: Tornelo Wild Card Practice event (by ratings) – *open to all WC players*

Week 4: 7 May 2021

- Friday: Group coaching via Zoom

WP Open 2021 (OTB) – 8-9 May 2021

Week 5: 14 - 15 May 2021

- Friday: Group coaching via Zoom
- Saturday: Level 2 tournament (hybrid at chess centres)

Week 6: 21 - 22 May 2021

- Friday: Group coaching via Zoom
- Saturday: Tornelo Wild Card Practice event (by ratings) – *open to all WC players*

Week 7: 29 May 2021

- Saturday: Level 3 tournament (OTB)
- Saturday: Level 1 tournament (online Lichess/Tornelo) – *open to all WC players*

Break

After a short break we would commence a new tournament series based on a similar format taking into account lessons learned in the first series and making it more accessible to new players.

****CWP Youth Commission reserves the right to amend, add or cancel events***



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2.6 General considerations

2.6.1 CWP Membership fees 2021

In order to participate in these CWP youth events all players will need to be registered with CWP and paid the 2021 membership fees. The following membership fees apply for 2021 based on the OGM held on 08 December 2020:

- Junior player registration fee R 150
- Family registration fee R 200 plus R50 per additional family member

These membership fees can be paid upon registration for the respective events or paid directly to Chess Western Province.

Players who are affiliated with a CWP club may via their club apply to CWP for financial assistance with regards to these membership fees. Applications may be sent to the CWP Treasurer, Irma Wilson, at fin@chesswesternprovince.co.za.

2.6.2 Financial assistance for tournament entry fees

Players requiring financial assistance with tournament entry fees can email the Youth Director on youthdirector@chesswesternprovince.co.za and request deferment, payment terms, partial or full reduction of these entry fees.

2.6.3 Data assistance for online tournaments

As noted above, data sponsorship of R20 per event will be made available by CWP on a first-come first-served basis.

Players requiring assistance with mobile data for online tournaments can indicate as such on registration or email the Youth Director on youthdirector@chesswesternprovince.co.za at least 48 hours prior to the tournament.

2.6.4 Promotion of Chess

In terms of the overall objectives of CWP and the Youth Commission we intend to use these events to promote and market chess in an attempt to increase active players.

We intend to stream certain online events to showcase chess in our region and to allow family and friends to spectate these events.

We also intend to market chess and celebrate tournament achievements via various social media platforms as well as local media sources.

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2.6.5 Availability of players

Players unable to participate in a qualifying event may apply to the Youth Director to be excused from a qualifying round and depending on the facts and circumstances may be permitted to proceed to the next qualification round.

Acceptable Reasons to be excused from a qualification event, include but are not limited to:

- Doctor's letter confirming the player was too sick to play in the tournament.
- Death of a family member.
- The player is participating in a sport or cultural competition in which he/she already has provincial or regional colours.
- Attendance of a compulsory school event. In this case, an email/letter from the school will suffice of proof for such an event.

At the discretion of the Youth Director, Youth Head Coach and the Youth Commission, players may be invited to any level 2 or 3 events despite not qualifying, provided that no player who qualified is prejudiced. Each case will be reviewed on its merits and all decisions by the Youth Commission will be final.

2.6.6 Chess Development in Western Cape

Although these tournaments will be focussed on CWP youth (Closed events), we believe that in the interest of youth chess development in the Western Cape that we need to allow access to certain events to all Western Cape players and may invite players from other regions to these events.

We will engage with neighbouring federations to assess the ability to host an inter-regional online event in 2021.

2.6.7 WP Team Selection and Colours

We are in the process of reviewing and documenting the WP Youth team selection policy but we envisage that participation and performance in these tournaments will be weighted in favour of those who participate regularly.

The top players from these tournament series will be selected for the CWP youth training squads – see point 3.3 below.

3. TRAINING STRATEGY

3.1 Appointment of Youth Head Coach

We plan to advertise for applicants for a Youth Head Coach position by the end of April 2021. The Youth Head Coach will be responsible to assist with the development, implementation and monitoring of training plans including the below initiatives.

3.2 Online Group Training via Zoom

As noted in the Tournament Strategy above, we intend to offer free online group training via Zoom to be presented by CWP Youth appointed coaches on a Friday afternoon.

This training will be available to all participants of the level 1 tournaments. These training sessions will be recorded and made available to all players online.

These training interventions will be aimed at the beginner and intermediate players and the objective is to give access to structured training to players without private coaching thereby improving the overall standard of chess within the youth.

Challenge: We understand that for certain players access to these training sessions may be an issue due to data and device constraints. We will try assist players by seeking sponsorship of data and will investigate methods to make this intervention accessible to all players.

3.3 CWP Youth Training Squads

Following the first tournament series, we plan to select training squads per age division initially of approximately 20 players and appoint a coach(es) for each group. We intend to start with specific age division specific training from June 2021. Based on participation in our events, additional coaches will be appointed and these training squads will be expanded accordingly.

Participation in the above tournament series' is compulsory for selection to these squads. As noted above, we plan to host multiple tournament series throughout the year to continuously identify talented and promising players.

This training would likely take the form of regular online group sessions and would be tailored for the strength of the respective age groups. More details to follow.

These training squads will also be encouraged to participate in regular events under the supervision of the coaches, including international online leagues.

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3.4 Chesskid

The CWP Youth Commission previously acquired 200 gold membership licences which are renewable in September 2021.

After successfully using Chesskid for her school team, Natasha Opperman has kindly volunteered to assist with the administration and monitoring of Chesskid for 2021.

We intend to offer Chesskid gold memberships to all players aged 12 and younger that participate in level 1 tournaments for FREE for one month. We have limited licences so this will be on a first come, first served basis. Players will need to remain active on Chesskid to extend the gold membership beyond one month.

Older players may apply to the Youth Director for gold membership under the same conditions as above.

We will encourage and motivate players to complete Chesskid lessons and complete puzzles each week and publish standings of the most active players. We will investigate how monthly winners can be rewarded for their efforts.

Depending on the demand and stability of the Chesskid tournament servers in South Africa, we hope to host social tournaments on Chesskids.

We have been invited by FunMasterMike (FM Mike Klein) to participate in an international event which will be streamed on the Chesskid social media channels. Details to follow.

We will review the Chesskid outcomes in the coming months before deciding to renew beyond September 2021. I personally believe that Chesskid is a wonderful tool and offers many benefits for beginners all the way up to 1800 players.

To find out more about Chesskid please go to <https://tinyurl.com/CWPCheesskid>.

Challenge: We understand that for certain players access to Chesskid may be an issue due to data and device constraints. We will investigate methods to make this intervention accessible to all players.

4. CONCLUSION

Although we find ourselves in uncertain times with many new challenges, the developments in online chess have given us a wonderful opportunity to keep our players active and make chess more accessible to players that otherwise would not be able to participate.

No strategy will succeed without the support and assistance of all stakeholders, including parents, coaches, arbiters and administrators. How can you assist during 2021:

➤ **Volunteer to be a Covid-19 officer at in-person events**

We will be hosting online Zoom training on Tuesday 11 May 2021 at 19:00 (approx. 1.5 hours) for volunteers to assist the appointed Covid-19 Compliance officer at the venues with the various Covid-19 compliance tasks including the pre-event admission processes, sanitising equipment between rounds, managing the players and assist in ensuring safety of the players and organisers. Final details will be posted in due course but interested persons can email youthdirector@chesswesternprovince.co.za to receive all updates.

➤ **Sourcing of venues for hybrid events**

In order to host hybrid online events with arbiter supervision we require venues that meet Covid-19 regulations (i.e. social distancing) and that have reliable internet connection and access to power points for participants. Ideally venues should cater for a minimum of 10 players and we will seek to provide an arbiter.

Any corporates or individuals able to assist by hosting groups of players for these events must please contact the Youth Director on the details below.

➤ **Sponsorship opportunities**

We intend to host many events in 2021 and strongly believe that corporates could profit from having their names associated with these tournaments and obtaining credit for helping to promote our great intellectual game and its proven educational and social benefits.

Sponsorship opportunities are many, from sponsoring a tournament or making financial contributions to afford more children access to these events. Sponsors will be celebrated on all marketing material, on social media, at the venues and live on stream if the events are streamed.

We ask you, our stakeholders, to help us make the connections we need to move chess in Western Province forward. Should you or company be interested in getting involved, please contact the Youth Director on the details below.

Should you have any comments, queries or suggestions, please feel free to contact the Youth Director, Paul Wilson, on 083 461 8742 or email youthdirector@chesswesternprovince.co.za.