



Zimbabwe Chess Federation
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Proudly presents



2026 ZCF Crystal Candy National Schools Team Chess Championship

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INVITATION

The Zimbabwe Chess Federation (ZCF), through its Chess in Education (CIE) Commission, invites all **primary and secondary schools in Zimbabwe** to participate in the **ZCF Crystal Candy National Schools Team Chess Championship**.

This is a **national team chess competition** conducted in stages, beginning at **District level**, with winning teams progressing to **Provincial level**, and culminating in the **National Finals**. Winning teams will receive **Crystal Candy-sponsored prizes** and may qualify to represent Zimbabwe at **continental and international school chess events**, subject to selection criteria and prevailing conditions.

Registration is now open and closes on 24 February 2026.

Dates for District and Provincial competitions will be confirmed by Provincial leadership in consultation with schools and stakeholders

Proposed competition dates are as follows: - **District Competitions:** between **23–27 February 2026** - **Provincial Competitions:** between **13–27 March 2026** - **National Finals (Manicaland):** - Travel days: **22 & 25 May 2026** - Playing days: **23–24 May 2026**

PREAMBLE

The year 2026 has been set by the International Chess Federation (FIDE) as the year for the promotion of chess in schools. Chess has many proven benefits, especially among children. From chess, we learn important and transferable skills such as calculation, sportsmanship, critical thinking, concentration etc. The Zimbabwe Chess Federation is on a mission to promote these skills and habits through the Crystal Candy Schools Team Championship.

The goal is to have chess played by every school in Zimbabwe by introducing it and making it part of the educational system. The playing of chess at grassroots levels of primary and secondary school level is of paramount importance to the enhancement of the sport at higher levels.

In 2025, Dominican Convent represented Zimbabwe in USA at the World Schools Team Chess Championship after emerging victorious in the 2024 and 2025 National Championships. In 2026, qualification for World Schools Team Championship will be done at the African Schools Team Championship. Four winning teams, two from

Secondary/High schools (boys and girls sections) and two from Primary/Junior Schools (boys and girls sections) stand a chance to represent Zimbabwe at the continental event depending on the criteria that will be set by the Continental and International organisers.

The tournament registration fee for schools is covered under registration and participation item 1.3.

TRAINING OF TRAINERS AND ARBITERS

The Federation is working on training coaches and arbiters. Face to face and online workshops will be held. Refresher courses will be held as well.

BENEFITS OF PARTICIPATION

1. Winners will be considered to represent the country in the international events that may extend an invitation to us. This is subject to terms and conditions of the events.
 2. Exposure to the benefits of chess (to be explained on additional documents that will be distributed via social media or a hardcopy during tournaments and workshops) as ZCF complements the Ministry of Primary and Secondary Education in the Competence Based Curriculum.
 3. Subsidized training and certification for Coaches and Teachers from participating schools. These discounts may be up to 50% or more.
 4. Prizes for individual top performers or specific prizes (subject to terms and conditions).
 5. All participating players will be issued with a FIDE ID which will allow them to participate in FIDE rated and international events.
 6. Outstanding players and schools will be recognized when ZCF organises annual chess awards.
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TOURNAMENT DETAILS

1. REGISTRATION & PARTICIPATION

- 1.1. The ZCF Crystal Candy National Schools Chess Tournament is open to all primary and secondary schools (government/private/ATS and colleges).
- 1.2. There will be no separate divisions. One schedule and format will be followed by all schools.
- 1.3. To participate, the school must **fill the registration form** and submit to the Zimbabwe Chess Federation together with a tournament registration fee of **(US\$50 - Primary Schools; US\$75 - Secondary Schools) per Institution.**

Payment Methods

1.3.1. **Cash:** ZCF Office, 16th Floor, Joina City, Harare.

1.3.2. **Bank:**

ZCF- Stanbic USD Bank Account Details	ZCF-CBZ USD Bank Account Details	ZCF - CABS USD Bank Account Details
Account Name: Zimbabwe Chess Federation	Account Name: Zimbabwe Chess Federation	Account Name: Zimbabwe Chess Federation
Bank: Stanbic Bank	Bank: CBZ Bank	Bank: CABS Bank
Account no: 9140001314415	Account no: 27624670024	Account no: 1154884880
Branch: Borrowdale	Branch: Sapphire House	Branch: Northridge Park

1.3.3. **Ecocash:** ZCF USD Ecocash merchant account **371265**

Please send proof of payment to ZCF Admin@zcf.org.zw together with the completed registration form. You can also use the ZCF WhatsApp number **+263 787 629 666**.

Kindly copy the registration forms and POPs to your respective ZCF provincial coordinators so that they keep track of active schools and this will help them find ways to develop chess in line with the development strategy shared on the roadmap.

2. The Competition

- 2.1. Register your schools before the deadline to participate.
- 2.2. Provincial structures will manage the tournament supported technically by ZCF CIE trained tournament secretariat who should be teachers/headmasters who are part of the district set up. Similarly, at provincial level only trained personnel will manage and coordinate games.

3. TEAMS

- 3.1. Each school is allowed to register a minimum of **2 teams (one for boys and one for girls)**. Additional teams may be registered upon payment of additional fees Schools which are not mixed gender schools, only provide five players where they fit (boys or girls).

3.2. In each team, players should be arranged in order of strength of play i.e. **the team's best players play on the top boards**. One substitute for boys and one substitute for girls is acceptable. Substitution will follow the FIDE guidelines for team tournaments.

3.3. Composition of 5 players is in this format;

Secondary Schools- At least **2 players Born in 2012 and after** while the cut off year for the rest of players is **2008 and after**

Primary Schools- **Players born in 2013 and after**

3.4 All teams must provide stamped team cards. They must be stamped by the school head. All players must be from the same school.

This means that vetting will be done through the use of birth certificates and IDs before the games start.

4. GAMES

4.1. All games are played simultaneously on every match.

4.2. Teams in a district or province meet on an agreed venue and play their games.

4.3. A toss or electronic pairing will determine who plays with the white pieces on odd numbered boards i.e. boards 1,3 and 5

4.4. Scoring for each individual game is 1 point for a win, $\frac{1}{2}$ point for a draw and 0 for a loss.

4.5. All game-points for the team are added to give the final score for each match.

4.6. Scoring for each match (team vs. team) is 2 points for a win, 1 point for a draw and 0 points for a loss.

4.7. Teams will play to determine the winners for the next level competition.

4.8. The dates that are fixed are for Nationals. Provinces and Districts are flexible in terms of deciding the dates to play games depending on the conditions leading to such changes. Communication has to be thorough to advice of those changes.

4.9. Holding district level competitions depend on how many teams will register per in that district otherwise some provinces will hold games at Provincial level.

5. PLAYING SCHEDULE

5.1. Games will be played in a gala system at one venue to save costs of travel.

Venue for games is confirmed using existing structures and days when games will be played should be regulated and advertised, so all have an equal chance to participate in the games.

5.2. Due to financial constraints which may arise, changes to the schedule must be approved by the District or Provincial or National coordinator 48 hours before the

match. Any deviation from the schedule will be dealt with on a case-by-case basis.

- 5.3. Gold and silver medalists will proceed to the next level. That is at Province, two boys teams and two girls teams will proceed to nationals. There is an exception for provinces that will have more teams registering. This means that they may have more teams proceeding to the next level.

AWARDS

1. The four winning Primary and Secondary school teams (one from the boys section and one from the girls section) will have the rights to represent Zimbabwe at the African Schools Team championship and where grants are awarded, they will be used to meet the traveling costs.
2. In the event that one School has two winning teams in two categories (boys and girls), the runners up in boys and girls section will compete to be selected to represent Zimbabwe at the African Schools Team Championship.
3. Provincial champions will be awarded with Provincial trophies/hampers/medals/certificates. All participants at the Provincial Games will be awarded with Certificates.

Please note,

- in the event that ACC or FIDE does not hold the 2026 continental and global events for 2026, our 2026 selections do not carry over to 2027.

-if ACC/FIDE invites fewer than four teams, a play off from the four teams shall be conducted to select the team or teams that will represent Zimbabwe.

RULES & REGULATIONS

1. The current FIDE Laws of Chess shall apply to all games.
2. Parings shall be done using Swiss Manager and results updated on chess-results.com
3. Recording of results shall be done by team officials of both teams and signed before submitting.
4. Recording or notating of games is **not** compulsory (although highly encouraged).
5. If a team has less than the required players for a match, they lose by default on the boards that they do not field any players.
6. Zonal, District, Provincial and National coordinators will oversee the tournament in terms of administration, submission of results, resolving disputes and linking teams.
7. A standard rating system will be used to rank schools and players to know the National, Provincial, District, Zonal and Cluster ranks.
8. The winning team will be selected by calculating the number of points it earns in the girls and boys team.
9. Any form of cheating will result in a fine as guided by MoPSE, NAPH and NASH structures and may lead to a suspension or ban in future editions.
10. For disputes or complaints, a deposit of USD 50 is made to the Zimbabwe Chess Federation and is refunded if the issue is resolved in your favour.
11. Two teams in each category will proceed to the next level.

TOURNAMENT ADMINISTRATION

National Chief Coordinator(s) – ZCF CIE D Zawu **+263 787 629 666** NASH HIC: L Madyangove **+263 77 326 1288** and NAPH HIC: E Mudzudzu **+263 771 434 084**

Tournament superintendents – CIE commissioners representing the 10 provinces. NAPH and NASH HICs. Under the leadership of their respective National HICs. ZCF District committees.

For further information, please contact:

1. ZCF office admins on the Zimbabwe Chess Federation number for calls and whatsapp **+263 787 629 666** - Admin@zcf.org.zw

2. ZCF CIE commission provincial representatives contact details

Mashonaland Central-T Muzorori **+263 772 928 237**

Manicaland- T Makonyere **+263 774 597 669**

Mashonaland East- S Manyatwa **+263 773 772 672/**
G Dembure **+263 773 403 863**

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ZCF CRYSTAL CANDY NATIONAL SCHOOLS CHESS CHAMPIONSHIP

REGISTRATION FORM

Primary School :

Secondary/High School :

Name of School/Institution:	
Province:	
District:	
Phone:	Email:

Contact Person:	Designation:
WhatsApp Phone:	

Number of Teams registered Male : Female:
 (Only one male and one female team)

Payment status Office-Cash Electronic

NB: Registration is only complete after the full payment has been made. When you have challenges with printing, handwritten forms with all this information and stamped are accepted.

By signing this registration form you agree that all the information provided is correct. Furthermore, you agree to be bound by the regulations, terms and conditions of the ZCF Schools Chess League and the Zimbabwe Chess Federation.

Head/Principal: _____

Signature: _____ Date _____

SCHOOL STAMP