

Grand Prix Season 2027

Official Rules & Regulations
1 January – 31 December 2027

The D&D Grand Prix for 2027 incorporates qualifying events held from January 1st to December 31st, 2027, beginning with the official NZCF Congress at the start of 2027 and concluding on December 31st, 2027.

The purpose of the Grand Prix is to boost participation in NZCF-rated open tournaments throughout the country, encourage players from the major metropolitan centres to travel to regional events, and motivate regional players to compete outside their home areas, fostering an active and connected national chess community.

Grand Prix Prizes

Prizes for 2027 have been calculated on the basis of a total prize fund of $10,000 across nine categories:

Prize Category	1st Place	2nd Place	3rd Place	Category Total
Open	$2,000	$1,000	$600	$3,600
Under 2100	$400	$250	$150	$800
Under 1800	$400	$250	$150	$800
Under 1500	$400	$250	$150	$800
Under 1200	$400	$250	$150	$800
Junior	$400	$250	$150	$800
Female	$400	$250	$150	$800
Senior	$400	$250	$150	$800
Veteran	$400	$250	$150	$800
Total Prize Pool	**$5,200**	**$3,000**	**$1,800**	**$10,000**

Within each category, prizes are awarded to the eligible players with the highest cumulative Grand Prix points totals at the end of the season, although no player may win more than one prize — see the Eligibility section for further details.

Grand Prix Points

Subject to the limits and constraints described below, points are awarded to every eligible player who completes a Grand Prix tournament, rewarding both participation and over-the-board performance. In each event, a player earns Grand Prix points consisting of two components:

Event GP Points = (2 × Over-the-Board Score) + Location Bonus Points

1. Over-the-Board (OTB) Performance Points

Every participant receives OTB Performance Points equal to double (2×) the game points they score over the board in the tournament, including any half or full point byes (for example, a player scoring 4.5 points out of 6 rounds earns 9.0 OTB Performance Points). There is no differentiation between points offered at standard and rapid events. Because actual game scores are used directly, tied placings in a tournament do not affect a player's points.

2. Location Bonus Points

To encourage nationwide participation and reward regional travel, every player who completes a Grand Prix tournament receives Location Bonus Points determined by the geographic region of the tournament venue:

Tournament Location Zone	Eligible Host Regions / Centres	Location Bonus
Zone 1 (Metropolitan)	Clubs and venues within the Auckland Council boundaries	5 points
Zone 2 (Major Urban)	Clubs and venues within the Wellington Regional Council boundaries, or within the boundaries of the Christchurch City Council, Selwyn District Council or Waimakariri District Council	15 points
Zone 3 (Regional NZ)	All other areas (Rest of New Zealand)	25 points

3. Scoring Limits and Constraints

- **OTB Performance Limit (Best 5 Scores):** A player's best five (5) OTB Performance Point scores across the year are counted towards his/her annual total; these five events cannot include more than three (3) rapid events.
- **Location Bonus Limit (Maximum 50 Points):** A player may accumulate Location Bonus Points across the year up to a maximum limit of 50 points from all sources. Location Bonus Points may be accumulated from any qualifying tournaments (independently of the five events counted for OTB Performance Points), provided that no more than three (3) rapid events may contribute towards a player's Location Bonus total.
- **Completion of Events:** Unauthorised withdrawal or expulsion from an event prior to its completion will result in the total loss of all Grand Prix points (both OTB Performance Points and Location Bonus Points) for that player in that specific event.

Eligibility

- Grand Prix points are only awarded to New Zealand players. For the Grand Prix, New Zealand players are defined as NZ Citizens, holders of a NZ resident class visa, or players who have been ordinarily resident in New Zealand since 1st January 2026.
- To be awarded Grand Prix points in a qualifying tournament, a player must be a paid-up individual NZCF member for the duration of that tournament. Grand Prix prize money may be withheld from any player breaching this rule.
- A player can win only one prize, but may compete in any number of categories for which he/she is eligible.
- He/she will be allocated the largest prize won at the end of the season or, in the case of prizes of equal value, the prize for the category where he/she finished in the higher placing. If the eligible prize and placing are equal, the player shall be awarded the prize from the category contested by fewest players. In the event of a tie on total points within a category at the end of the season, the relevant cash prizes will be shared equally.
- Players who are unrated at 1st January 2027 are only eligible for points in open and demographic categories that they qualify for (Senior, Veteran, Female, Junior).

Rating & Age Regulations

- Ratings for rating categories (Under 2100, Under 1800, Under 1500, Under 1200) are based on players' standard ratings (or rapid rating if no standard rating is held) in the most recently published official NZCF rating list prior to the start of the Grand Prix on 1st January 2027. Even if a player's rating goes up or down in subsequent lists and affects his/her qualification for sections of multi-section events, the categories in which he/she can score points will not change.
- Players are awarded points in all categories that they qualify for, regardless of whether they win prizes at an individual tournament.
- Juniors are under 20 on 1st January 2027 (i.e. anyone born in 2007 or later is a Junior).
- A player becomes a Senior on 1st January of the year in which he/she reaches the age of 50 (i.e. all those born in 1977 or before are Seniors).
- A player becomes a Veteran on 1st January of the year in which he/she reaches the age of 65 (i.e. all those born in 1962 or before are Veterans).

Qualifying Tournaments

Both standard and rapid time control events are eligible for inclusion in the Grand Prix, subject to the following conditions:

- Grand Prix events must be NZCF-rated weekender or longer multi-day events, or one-day rapid tournaments that are open to all players nationwide and advertised on the Calendar page of www.newzealandchess.co.nz.
- Tournaments must have no less than 5 rounds and no more than 9 rounds.
- Tournaments must have a minimum published prize fund of $300 for a rapid and $500 for a standard time control event.

- Only NZCF itself, NZCF Club Members, NZCF Associate Members, or NZCF Affiliate Chess Clubs may host a Qualifying Tournament. Clubs may register at most two tournaments for the 2027 Grand Prix, with no more than one being a rapid time control event, but Official NZCF Tournaments do not count towards these limits.
- Internal club tournaments are not eligible for inclusion in the Grand Prix.
- Tournaments where entry is restricted by factors other than rating are not eligible for Grand Prix points, except where there is a specified Grand Prix category (e.g. Female, Junior, Senior/Veteran).
- No registration levy is payable by clubs or tournament organisers to include an event in the 2027 D&D Grand Prix.

Multi-Section Events

- For the categories Senior, Veteran, Female, and Junior, OTB Performance Points will be reduced in lower sections of a multi-section event: 100% of OTB Performance Points will be awarded in an Open or A-Grade, 80% in a B-Grade, and 60% in a C-Grade, D-Grade, or below. Full Location Bonus Points are awarded regardless of section.
- In a multi-section event, points for a lower grading category will not be awarded in higher sections. For example, in a tournament with A-Grade (1800 and over), B-Grade (under 1800), and C-Grade (under 1500), there will be no Under 1800 category points awarded in the A-Grade, and no Under 1500 category points awarded in the B-Grade.
- For the NZ Championship and the Major Open (where there is some overlap and also problems introduced by the requirement to promote people to make up Championship numbers), Under 2100 category points will be awarded in both (but no Under 1800 points or below in the Championship).
- Points specific to a higher category (e.g. Open) will not be awarded in lower sections (e.g. B-Grade). Note that when Congress is run as an Open plus a Major (rather than a Championship with a rating cut-off and a Major with a 2100 cut-off), points for all categories will be awarded in the Open.

Official NZCF Tournaments

The following official NZCF Tournaments held during 2027 are automatically included in the 2027 D&D Grand Prix:

- The New Zealand Championship & Major Open
- The New Zealand Rapid Championship
- The North Island Championship & North Island Rapid Championship
- The South Island Championship & South Island Rapid Championship
- The New Zealand Junior Championship & New Zealand Junior Rapid Championship
- The New Zealand Seniors/Veterans Championship
- The New Zealand Women's Championship

Tournament Organisers' Responsibilities

- To advise the Grand Prix Administrator at least one month before a tournament that it will be a Grand Prix event (Note: no new tournaments may be added to the Grand Prix calendar after 30 September 2027).
- To ensure the D&D Grand Prix and its sponsors are mentioned on tournament entry forms (including web based entry forms). The official logo can be downloaded from the Grand Prix web page.
- To endeavour to publicise the Grand Prix in any media coverage, including any social media (e.g. Facebook) posts advertising the event, and on the NZCF Tournament Calendar.
- To make the most recent Grand Prix standings available to tournament participants at the start of the event.
- When submitting the rating report for the tournament, advise the NZCF administrator that the tournament is a Grand Prix event.

Grand Prix Administrator

The Grand Prix Administrator for 2027 is John Ansell, email GPAdmin@newzealandchess.co.nz. The Administrator is responsible for:

- Updating the Grand Prix standings as soon as possible after each tournament.
- Making the current Grand Prix standings available to organisers prior to the start of their tournaments.
- Providing tournament organisers with confirmation of the location bonus that will apply for an event.

Grand Prix standings and tournament results will be made available on the NZCF website at www.newzealandchess.co.nz.

Interpretation and Governance

- The New Zealand Chess Federation (NZCF) reserves the right to amend, vary, or add to these rules at any time at its sole discretion.
- In the event of any dispute or ambiguity regarding the interpretation or application of these rules, the matter shall be decided by the NZCF Council at its sole discretion, and its decision shall be final.
- NZCF reserves the right to withhold Grand Prix points from any event if it determines the organisers have acted in bad faith, have not followed NZCF rules or regulations (including these rules) and the breach(es) were not minor, or if it is not satisfied that a genuine, open competition took place.