



**Government of Odisha**  
**Sports & Youth Services Department**  
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No. 19654 /SYS Bhubaneswar  
SYS-SPW-MISC-0002-2025

Dated: 12.06.2026

**Notification**  
**(Addendum)**

(Standard Operating Procedure with regards to the Guidelines "Financial Assistance to Outstanding Sportspersons For Advanced Training, Coaching And Participation in Sports Competitions)

The State Government is pleased to formulate the following Standard Operating Procedure for provision of Financial Assistance to Chess Players of the State. This Addendum shall be read conjunctively with the original guidelines notified by this Department Notification No. 27155 Dated 31.12.2022.

The following eligibility criteria and operational guidelines are depicted in the SOP:-

	<b>Items</b>	<b>Conditions/Criteria</b>
1.	Active Rating:	Applicants must maintain a minimum 6-month average classical rating - Over the board (OTB) of 2250 for the Open category and 1950 for the Women's Category. A minimum of 18 classical-rated games - Over the board (OTB) must have been played over the preceding six months to establish the active status of the player during the time of application.
2.	Norm Validity and Compliance:	Eligibility based on Norms is subject to specific validity periods: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• One (1) year for IM/WIM norms from the date of achievement (subsequent norms achieved will remain valid from the time of achieving it to 1 year.)</li><li>• Two (2) years for GM/WGM norms from the date of achievement (subsequent norms achieved will remain valid from the time of achieving it to 2 years.)</li></ul>

3.	Training:	<p>Instead of conducting individual training sessions, it is decided that structured training camps be organized on a regular basis at PROCESSTA. These camps may be appropriately designed and customized to cater to the varying skill levels and developmental needs of the eligible players.</p>
4.	Tournament exposure :	<p>a. It has been decided to support a maximum of four tournaments <b>(two (2) international tournaments and two (2) domestic tournaments) per annum.</b></p> <p>b. To ensure high standards of competitive commitment, mandatory participation in National Championships <b>(Senior Open/Women/Age Categories Nationals Open/Girls)</b> remains a fundamental requirement for eligibility. For these events, athletes must complete a minimum of 50% of the total tournament schedule to qualify for financial assistance. Withdrawals below this threshold are permissible solely on medical grounds, substantiated by a medical certificate from a local hospital or the tournament's medical authority; undocumented withdrawals will be treated as non-participation.</p> <p>c. In cases where international and domestic tournaments of comparable stature are conducted during the same period, preference shall be given to participation in domestic tournaments and there should be compelling reason for the athlete to participate in international events.</p>

5. Eligibility Matrix :				
Category	Rating (6Months Avg)	National Criteria	Norm Criteria	Conditions for consideration
	I	II	III	
Non-Titled (Open)	≥2250	Mandatory + Top 30 in Senior Nationals/ Top 15 Age Category Nationals as applicable	IM/GM (validity applies)	Any 2 of 3
Non-Titled (Women)	≥1950	Mandatory + Top 30 in Senior National Women / Top 15 Age Category Nationals as applicable	IWM/IM/ WGM/GM	Any 2 of 3
IM	≥2350	Top 30 Senior Nationals/Top 15 in Age Category Nationals as applicable	GM Norm	Any 2 of 3
GM & Above	≥2450	Top 20 Senior	-	Both mandatory
WIM	≥2100	Top 30 in Senior Nationals / Top 15 Age Category Nationals as applicable	IM/WGM/GM	Any 2 of 3
WGM	≥2300	Top 20 Senior	IM/GM	Any 2 of 3
6.	Exceptional Performance:	Direct eligibility is extended to players qualifying through official merit-based selection for World Championships (any category)/ Asian Championships (any category)/ Commonwealth Championships (any category) / Chess Olympiad (Open and Women, Youth Olympiad/ World Team Championships (Open and Women) excluding any amateur and school championships. Eligibility is strictly for merit-earned entries and excludes donor or special invitational entries. All the above tournaments are applicable for Over The Board (OTB).		

7.	Special provision:	With a view to encourage and motivate young players, it is proposed to extend financial assistance in the form of travel support (i.e. flight tickets) for two (2) tournaments of their choice to one parent or accompanying person for players below the age of <b>18 years</b> . This facility shall be admissible only in cases where the player has been officially selected to represent the country in recognized international events such as the FIDE World Cadet Chess Championship, Asian Youth Chess Championship, Commonwealth Chess Championship, or any other duly approved official tournament under FIDE (World Chess Federation) and All India Chess Federation (AICF). Entries under special, wild card, or donor categories shall not be eligible for such assistance. Upon attaining the age of 18 years and above, players may be required to travel as part of the official Indian contingent, and no financial support for accompanying person shall ordinarily be provided.
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The applicant shall have to abide by all the General terms & conditions as mentioned in the existing financial assistance Notification of the Department.

This Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) which is notified now shall be implemented with immediate effect i.e. from the date of issue.

Ordered that this Notification will be published in the next issue of Odisha Gazette and copies supplied to all Departments of Government/ All Heads of Departments/ All Collectors/All Superintendent of Police for information & necessary action.

By Order of the Governor,



Commissioner-cum- Secretary to Government

Memo No. 19655/SYS

Dated. 12.06.2026

Copy forwarded to Director Printing Stationery and Publications, Odisha, Cuttack for information & necessary action. He is requested to publish the same in the next issue of Odisha Gazette and supply 100 copies to this Department.



Director, Sports

Memo No. 19656/SYS

Dated. 12.06.2026

Copy forwarded to All Department/ All Heads of Department/ A.G. Odisha/ All Collectors/ All Superintendent of Police/ Secretary Odisha Council of Sports/ Odisha Olympic Association, Cuttack/ All State Level Association/ NYKS for information and necessary action.

  
Director, Sports

Memo No. 19657/SYS

Dated. 12.06.2026

Copy forwarded to All Branches/ Deputy Secretary I.T. Branch, Sports & Y.S. Department with request to host this notification in the Department website.

  
Director, Sports