Constitution of Triangulation Strategic Chess Academy

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Preamble

We, the founding members of Triangulation Strategic Chess Academy, believe that chess builds clear thinking, patience, discipline and sound decision-making. We establish this Academy to teach, train and promote chess among learners of every age and level, and we adopt this Constitution to govern how the Academy is run, how its leaders are chosen and how its members conduct themselves.

Founders

The founders of Triangulation Chess Academy are **Noble Chimasha**, **Kenneth Ruchaka** and **Trust Muvuti**.

Article 1: Name, Emblem and Status

1. The name of the organisation is Triangulation Strategic Chess Academy, referred to in this Constitution as “the Academy”.
2. The emblem of the Academy is the logo shown at the top of this document: a gold and blue chess king set inside a triangle. The emblem may be used only for Academy business and with the approval of the Executive Committee.
3. The Academy is a non-profit, non-political and non-discriminatory body. It operates in Zimbabwe and may affiliate with the national chess association and other recognised chess bodies.

Article 2: Aims and Objectives

The Academy exists to:

1. Teach chess to beginners, juniors, adults and advanced players through structured lessons.
2. Develop strategic thinking, focus and sportsmanship in every member.
3. Organise tournaments, simul exhibitions, training camps and friendly matches.
4. Identify and support talented players so they can represent the Academy at school, district, provincial and national level.
5. Train coaches, arbiters and organisers.
6. Promote chess in schools, communities and the wider public.
7. Raise funds and build partnerships that support these aims.

Article 3: Membership

1. Membership is open to any person who accepts this Constitution and pays the fees set by the Executive Committee. Applicants under 18 need the written consent of a parent or guardian.
2. The Academy has four categories of member:
    a. Student members: learners enrolled in Academy training programmes.
    b. Full members: paid-up members aged 18 or older with voting rights.
    c. Coaches and Associates: instructors, arbiters and volunteers who serve the Academy.
    d. Honorary members: persons admitted by the Executive Committee for outstanding service to chess or to the Academy. They pay no fees and have no vote.
3. Only Full members may vote and hold office. A parent or guardian may vote on behalf of a Student member under 18 on matters that affect the Student's welfare.
4. Membership ends by resignation in writing, by non-payment of fees for three consecutive months, by death, or by expulsion under Article 9.

Article 4: The Executive Committee

1. The Academy is governed by an Executive Committee of five office bearers:
    a. Chairman
    b. Vice Chairman
    c. Secretary
    d. Treasurer
    e. Public Relations Officer

2. The Executive Committee manages the Academy between General Meetings, carries out the decisions of the members and answers to them.
3. Three office bearers form a quorum. Decisions are made by majority vote, and the Chairman has a casting vote when votes are equal.
4. No person may hold more than one post at the same time.
5. The Committee may co-opt up to two non-voting advisers for specific tasks.

Article 5: Duties of Office Bearers

5.1 Chairman

1. Is the head of the Academy and its chief spokesperson on policy.
2. Chairs General Meetings and Executive Committee meetings.
3. Ensures that the Constitution and the decisions of the members are followed.
4. Co-signs the Academy's bank instruments with the Treasurer.
5. Appoints sub-committees with the approval of the Committee.

5.2 Vice Chairman

1. Deputises for the Chairman when he or she is absent or unable to act, with the same authority.
2. Oversees training programmes, coaching standards and tournaments.
3. Takes on special duties assigned by the Chairman or the Committee.
4. Succeeds the Chairman for the rest of the term if the post falls vacant.

5.3 Secretary

1. Keeps accurate minutes of all General and Committee meetings.
2. Issues notices and agendas at least seven days before a meeting.
3. Keeps the register of members and the Academy's records and correspondence.
4. Prepares the annual report for the Annual General Meeting.
5. Handles the Academy's official correspondence and affiliations.

5.4 Treasurer

1. Collects fees, donations, sponsorships and all other income, and issues receipts for them.
2. Keeps proper books of account and pays approved expenses.
3. Banks all money within three working days of receiving it.
4. Presents a financial statement at every ordinary Committee meeting and an audited statement at the Annual General Meeting.
5. Prepares the annual budget for approval by the Committee.

5.5 Public Relations Officer

1. Promotes the Academy to schools, parents, sponsors, the media and the chess community.
2. Manages the Academy's social media, website, posters and announcements.
3. Publicises tournaments, results and achievements.
4. Looks after relations with sponsors, partners and visiting guests.
5. Protects the Academy's name and emblem and ensures they are used correctly.

Article 6: Elections and Term of Office

1. Office bearers are elected by secret ballot of Full members at the Annual General Meeting.
2. Each office bearer serves a term of two years and may be re-elected once for a consecutive term.
3. Nominations are made in writing to the Secretary at least seven days before the election, each nomination proposed and seconded by Full members. The nominee must consent.
4. A candidate must be a Full member in good standing for at least six months, except at the first election after this Constitution is adopted.
5. If an office falls vacant, the Committee appoints a replacement from among the Full members until the next General Meeting.
6. An office bearer is removed from office by a two-thirds majority vote of Full members at a Special General Meeting, after being given a fair chance to respond.

Article 7: Meetings

1. The AGM receives the annual report and audited accounts, elects office bearers and considers proposals from members.
2. Decisions at General Meetings are made by simple majority of those present and voting, unless this Constitution says otherwise.
3. If a quorum is not present within 30 minutes of the start time, the meeting is adjourned to a date within 14 days, and the members present then form a quorum.
4. Minutes of every meeting are kept by the Secretary and approved at the next meeting.

Meeting	When	Quorum	Notice
Annual General Meeting (AGM)	Once a year	One third of Full members	14 days
Executive Committee	At least once a month	Three office bearers	7 days
Special General Meeting	When the Committee or one fifth of Full members request it in writing	One third of Full members	7 days

Article 8: Finances

1. The Academy's income comes from membership and training fees, tournament entry fees, donations, sponsorships, grants and fundraising events.
2. All funds are used only to advance the aims in Article 2. No profit or property is shared among members or office bearers.
3. The Academy keeps a bank account in its own name. The Chairman and the Treasurer, together with the Secretary as a third signatory, operate it, and any withdrawal needs two signatures.
4. The Treasurer keeps cash on hand to a minimum and holds receipts for all payments.
5. The financial year runs from 1 January to 31 December.
6. The books are examined each year by an independent person who is not an office bearer, appointed at the AGM.
7. Spending above the limit set by the Committee needs prior written Committee approval.

8. Office bearers serve without pay, but may be reimbursed for approved expenses.

Article 9: Code of Conduct and Discipline

1. Every member must respect fellow members, opponents, coaches, arbiters and officials, play fairly and follow the rules of chess.
2. Cheating, including the use of engines or outside help during play, match-fixing, harassment, bullying, abuse and any behaviour that harms the Academy's name are serious offences.
3. The Academy keeps children and young members safe. Adults who work with them must follow the child-protection rules set by the Committee.
4. A member accused of misconduct is told the complaint in writing and given at least seven days to respond before the Committee decides.
5. The Committee may issue a warning, suspend a member for up to six months or recommend expulsion. Expulsion requires a two-thirds vote at a General Meeting.
6. A member may appeal a Committee decision to the next General Meeting.

Article 10: Amendments, Dissolution and Adoption

10.1 Amendments

1. This Constitution may be amended only at an AGM or Special General Meeting by a two-thirds majority of Full members present and voting.
2. Proposed amendments must be given to the Secretary in writing and sent to all Full members at least 14 days before the meeting.

10.2 Dissolution

1. The Academy may be dissolved only by a resolution passed by a three-quarters majority of all Full members at a Special General Meeting called for that purpose.
2. After all debts are paid, any remaining assets go to a non-profit chess or youth-development organisation chosen by that meeting. They are never shared among members.

10.3 Adoption

This Constitution was adopted by the founding members of Triangulation Strategic Chess Academy on the date below and takes effect immediately.

Office	Name	Signature	Date
Chairman			
Vice Chairman			
Secretary			
Treasurer			
Public Relations Officer			