

ALL INDIA CHESS FEDERATION

Invitation Document for Expression(s) of Interest/Bids for Chess League

1. **Introduction**

Chess is played every day around the world and brings people of different cultures and backgrounds together. Since the Covid-19 pandemic hit the world every sporting activity has been affected, however, chess has overcome this difficulty, and even seen an increase in popularity.

Over the years the All India Chess Federation (“AICF”) has undertaken several projects and national championships for the development and growth of chess, including those at the grassroots level, such as the Chess in School, Chess for Everyone, and Smart Girl Chess Events, as well as holding coaching camps in rural and tribal areas, etc.

In order to take its efforts further, AICF has envisaged the idea of conducting a physical Chess league (“League”) at a national level, to further develop the sport of chess with an objective of preparing, scrutinising, and advancing players for further representation.

Therefore, for the enhancement, sustenance, and with an aim of creating a better outreach, of chess, AICF hereby invites expressions of interest from suitable persons, firms and entities (hereinafter collectively referred to as “entities”) to show their interest by way of a detailed proposal/ presentation to conduct the League.

Please refer to the details below for the purposes of submitting the expression of interest to the AICF.

2. **Scope of Work**

The Scope of Work for an entity selected through this Invitation of Expression(s) of Interest (‘EOI’)/Bids (“**Invitation Document**”) shall be as follows:

2.1. Chess League:

- a. To conduct a nation-wide physical, professional League in India;

- b. To provide suitable platform(s), with all anti-cheating measures in place;
- c. To maximize viewership;
- d. To generate revenue through various commercial transactions i.e., sponsorship, broadcasting, franchise fee, etc.;
- e. To ensure that top-quality players from across the world participate in the League;
- f. To ensure that all stakeholders are paid their dues in a timely manner.
- g. To conduct and operate the said League for a minimum period of 5 (five) years, extendable at the discretion of AICF for a further period of 5 (five) years.

2.2. Miscellaneous:

To carry out any other ancillary work required to be executed for the success of the League, grassroots development of the sport, and increasing the popularity of the discipline of chess.

3. **Criteria/ Conditions for Eligibility**

For a fair, transparent and smooth functioning of the League, only entities fulfilling the criteria as outlined herein this document, as a whole, shall be eligible for Evaluation:

4. **Last date and time for depositing EOI/Bids: Last date for submission of sealed Bids shall be at 1100 hrs on 23rd October 2023.** The responsibility to ensure that any EOI/Bids, along with all necessary supporting materials, are received by AICF before the fixed deadline shall lie solely with the Bidder/Applicant. The relevant date(s) will as below:

<i>Bid issue date</i>	23 rd September 2023
<i>Pre bid date</i>	12 th October 2023
<i>Bid submission date</i>	23 rd October 2023 (up to 1100 hrs)
<i>Bid opening date</i>	23 rd October 2023 (1200 hrs)
<i>Presentation date</i>	23 rd October 2023
<i>Financial bid opening</i>	23 rd October 2023

5. **Manner of depositing E O I / Bids:** Sealed Bids should be deposited in the Tender Box available at the ‘Organising Committee Office Reception’ marked as **EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST FOR CHESS LEAGUE** or sent by registered post at the address given above so as to reach by the due date and time. **Any EOI/Bid received after the specified deadline will not be considered** (subject to the terms of Clause 11 below). No responsibility will be taken for postal delay or non-delivery/non-receipt of any EOI/Bid documents. EOI/Bids sent by FAX or e-mail will not be considered.

6. **Time and Date for opening of Bids:** The sealed Bids will be opened on the date as stated above, i.e. at **1400 hrs** on **23rd October 2023**. If due to any reason the due date fixed for opening of the sealed Bids is declared a closed holiday, the Bids will be opened on the next working day at the same time, or on any other day/time, as intimated by AICF

7. **Location of the Tender Box:** The Tender Box shall be located at ALL INDIA CHESS FEDERATION, Hall No. 70, Jawahar Lal Nehru Stadium, Periamet, CHENNAI-600003 (TAMIL NADU)

8. **Place of opening of Bids:** The place of opening of the sealed Bids shall be ALL INDIA CHESS FEDERATION, Hall No. 70, Jawahar Lal Nehru Stadium, Periamet, CHENNAI-600003 (TAMIL NADU). The Bidders/Applicants may depute their representatives, duly authorised in writing, to attend the opening of the EOI/Bids on the specified date and time. Rates and important commercial/technical clauses quoted by all Bidders/Applicants will be read out in the presence of the representatives of all the Bidders/Applicants. This event will not be postponed due to non-presence of your representative.

9. Application:

a. Applicants must deposit a mandatory, non-refundable application fee of INR 1,00,000/- (Indian Rupees One lakh only) at the time of submitting their EOI/Bid to AICF.

b. The aforesaid application fee must be addressed to ‘ALL INDIA CHESS FEDERATION’ and shall be deposited in the following bank account:

Account Name ALL INDIA CHESS FEDERATION

Account No	432422331
Bank Name	INDIAN BANK
Branch Name	New Delhi Main Branch, G 41 Connaught Place, New Delhi, India-110001
IFSC	IDIB000N022

10. Criteria:

a. Financial criteria:

- i. Since revenue generation from the League is a long-term process (as has been seen thus far in the case of Kabaddi, Badminton, Table Tennis, etc.), and income generating streams are few, with limited possibility of earning profits or breaking even in the near future/short term, there are several expenditures (large investments) involved in conducting the physical League of the magnitude envisaged under this Invitation Document. Therefore, preference shall be given to entities that can establish sound financial credibility.
- ii. An entity can either apply by itself or in association with an Affiliate, forming a part of the Group of companies, whereby the entity and/or one of its Affiliates (if applicable) must have been in existence for a minimum of 3 (three) years.

For the purpose of this paragraph 3.2(b):

“**Group**” shall mean an economic entity formed of a set of entities that are either entities Controlled by the same entity, or the controlling entity itself.

“**Affiliate**” shall mean any other entity incorporated in India, directly or indirectly controlled by or under common Control of the Group and shall include an associate company as per the Companies Act, 2013;

“**Control**” shall mean the ability of any Person, whether directly or indirectly, to secure that the affairs of another Person are conducted in accordance with the wishes or direction of such first mentioned Person and shall include:

- (i) by means of holding more than fifty percent (50%) shares or any other securities or the possession of more than fifty percent (50%) voting power in such other Person;
- (ii) by means of majority representation on the board of directors of such other Person;
- (iii) by way of any power conferred by any constitutional document of such other Person; and

(iv) by virtue of any contractual arrangement, whether written or otherwise; “Person” shall mean any individual, entity, joint venture, company (including a limited liability company), corporation, partnership (whether limited or unlimited), proprietorship, trust or other enterprise (whether incorporated or not), Hindu undivided family, union, association or Governmental Authority, and shall include their respective successors and, in case of an individual, shall include his/her legal representatives, administrators, executors and heirs and, in case of a trust, shall include the trustee or the trustees, from time to time;

iii. The entity must submit their financial statements/ ITR / book-keeping records / audit reports evidencing a minimum Turnover of **INR 35,00,00,000/-** (Indian Rupees Thirty Five Crores, only) per year for a period of 3 (three) years.

b. Technical Criteria:

- i. In order to generate sponsorship for a non-spectator sports’ discipline like chess, the entity must have suitable experience in the field of marketing.
- ii. It is an added advantage if an entity can establish credentials of having undertaken and popularized such initiatives through social media or other digital platforms.
- iii. Applicants should be able to show previous similar works undertaken along-with documentary proof viz. Work Order, Completion Reports along-with relevant Photographs, etc..

c. Sporting Criteria:

- i. The entity must have necessary resources and ability to conduct the physical chess tournament, and all associated and ancillary activities.
- ii. Any display of intent pertaining to adherence to anti-cheating and other measures being put in place, and events being conducted in compliance with the rules, regulations, constitutions and charters etc. of AICF and FIDE will carry additional points.
- iii. Entities with any pre-existing experience in event management and/or conduct of a physical sports league will be preferred.

d. Disqualification Criteria:

The following shall lead to the disqualification of a submitted EOI/entity from further consideration under the project:

- i. Admission of an application for winding up or liquidation under the applicable laws against the entity or any of its or their respective directors and partners; and/or
- ii. Any action or proceeding being initiated under the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Laws under the applicable law, including but not limited to declaration of Insolvency or Bankruptcy, disqualification or de-recognition by any professional body, being initiated against the entity; and/or
- iii. Current or previous banning of the entity or its respective directors, partners, executives, or key managerial personnel, by the governing body of any sport, from involvement in the administration of, or any form of participation in, such sport, for any reason whatsoever, whether in India or elsewhere around the Globe; and/or
- iv. Attempts to influence, induce, or interfere with, the selection process under this Invitation Document and thereby affect its fairness and judgment.

11. Presentation

- a. The EOI/Bid must contain a proposal/ presentation displaying the proposed operation and management of the physical League. Evaluation of the EOI/Bid will be done basis the plan proposed in the presentation, the scalability model, and innovative ideas showcased to popularize chess.
- b. The presentation must contain details of, amongst other things, execution plan(s) for branding, overlays; work plan and roadmap for deliverables, etc.
- c. The proposal must also contain the proposed sanction fee offered to AICF by the entity for obtaining the rights in relation to the operation of the League.
- d. Interested Bidders/Applicants may send the proposal by post or deliver it in person at the above-mentioned address. Bidders/Applicants may also submit a copy by email. It is clarified that submission by email is optional and the Bidder/Applicant must mandatorily submit the EOI/Bid physically as stated in Clause 5 above in order for the EOI/Bid to be eligible for consideration. It must be noted that the responsibility to ensure that the proposal, along with proof of payment of the application fee, is received by AICF in time shall vest solely in the entity submitting the proposal, and AICF shall not be held responsible in the event that the proposal is not delivered in time, or delivered elsewhere, or lost in transit, or is not received/delivered for any reason whatsoever.

- e. Any proposal received by AICF after the date and time mentioned hereinabove may not be opened or considered by AICF. However AICF may, at its sole discretion, extend or postpone the deadline to receive proposals in pursuance of this Invitation Document, and if so done shall notify the same through a communication on it's website www.aicf.in.

12. Documents to be submitted

- a. Aligned with this Invitation Document, along with the submission of the application fee as stated in Clause 9 (e) above, interested entities shall submit an EOI/Bid containing their proposal to AICF consisting of the documents mentioned hereunder:
 - i. Date of submission of EOI/Bid to be mentioned on the sealed cover (if submitted by hand);
 - ii. Name of the entity submitting the proposal;
 - iii. Address of the entity submitting the proposal;
 - iv. Incorporation date/ registration date, registered office, and registered number of the entity;
 - v. Details of majority shareholders in the case of a company; details of individuals, partners in a partnership firm; trustees and major beneficiaries in the case of a trust; details of members of an association of persons and body of individuals and members of the society who are involved in the day-to-day management of the society;
 - vi. If the entity forms a part of a group of companies, an organisation chart of such group including details of those persons who are the ultimate controllers of the entity;
 - vii. Details of the directors and senior management and other officials who will be responsible for operating the activities;
 - viii. Certified true copies of all constitutional documents relating to the entity:
 - (i) In case of a company please provide certificate of incorporation, memorandum and articles of association (or other equivalent constitutional documents);
 - (ii) in case of a partnership, the partnership deed and list of partners;
 - (iii) in case of a trust, the trust deed and list of trustees;

- (iv) in case of an association or body of persons, the agreement in terms of which the association or body of persons is formed, regulated and controlled;
 - (v) in case of a society, the bye laws, the certificate of association and other details of registration of the society;
 - (vi) all members of the consortium should provide the relevant constitutional documents.
 - ix. Proposal/ presentation displaying the operation and management of the League and the sanction fee offered to AICF for the same.
 - x. Financial statements/ ITR / book-keeping records / audit reports evidencing a minimum Turnover of **INR 35,00,00,000/-** (Indian Rupees Twenty-Five Crores, only) per year for a period of 3 (three) years;
- b. Undertaking by the entity signifying/explicitly stating the following:
- i. Undertaking that the entity has submitted the application fee to the AICF as stated in Clause 9 (e) above, along with supporting evidence;
 - ii. The proposed sanction fee/bid with a proposed budget for the operation & conduct of the League, wherein the sanction fee/bid should be quoted inclusive all applicable taxes, and any rates (inclusive of GST) should be quoted both in words and figures
 - iii. Binding and irrevocable undertaking to provide, in advance, Performance Bank Guarantee (PBG) for the amount of the proposed sanction fee/Bid, for each year, for the first 5 (five) years.
 - iv. Undertaking that the entity has the necessary financial resources, ability and credibility to meet the expenditure to conduct the League, along with supporting material/evidence
 - v. Intent of using the relevant resources or proposal pertaining to, and any documents showcasing the ability to, conduct the League in compliance with any and all of the anti-cheating and other measures, rules, regulations, constitutions, charters, etc. prescribed by AICF and FIDE;
 - vi. Document(s) evidencing the experience in event management and ancillary areas like sale of sponsorship and broadcast rights, digital marketing, creating of sports' intellectual properties, etc.

- vii. Undertaking that the applicant entity has thoroughly read and understood each of the requirements/criteria described herein before submitting its application/EOI.
 - viii. Undertaking that the successful bidder will conduct the league before 31st March 2024 failing which the EMD will be forfeited, Bank Guarantee will be encashed and AICF will have liberty to allot the League to any other party .
- c. Any other documents to corroborate the statement of undertaking submitted under Clause(s) 12 (a) and 12 (b) above;
 - d. Copy of this Invitation Document and any clarifications issued by AICF to this Invitation Document, duly signed and stamped on each page by the authorised signatory of the applicant entity as a mark of acceptance of all the terms and conditions of this Invitation Document;
 - e. Copy of a letter from the head of the entity such as the director, managing partner, etc. in favour of the authorised signatory along with attestation of signature of the authorised signatory; and
 - f. Soft copy of the proposal in a pen-drive in PDF format. (It must, however, be noted that in case of any difference between the hard copy and the soft copy of the proposal, the hard copy shall prevail).

Note:

- a. All papers or documents that are a photocopy and are submitted as part of the proposal must be duly signed and attested by the authorised signatory;
- b. Each of the pages of the proposal submitted must be signed and stamped by the authorised signatory of the entity; and
- c. Each page of the proposal must be duly numbered. The total number of pages in the proposal must be clearly mentioned. An Index of documents, submitted with the EOI, must be provided and the location of the documents submitted in the proposal must be clearly mentioned in the Index in order to enable the evaluation committee to easily locate them in the proposal.

- d. Each EOI/Bid/proposal, once submitted, shall constitute a binding and irrevocable offer by the Applicant Entity to provide its services on the terms set out in the Invitation Document read with the EOI/Bid/proposal, which offer cannot be amended or withdrawn after its date of submission.
- e. The appointment of the successful applicant(s) is subject to the conclusion of Final Agreement(s) between AIFC and the successful applicant(s) governing all rights and obligations related to the present Invitation Document.
- f. Notwithstanding any other provision of this Invitation Document, AIFC reserves the sole and exclusive right, at any time and in its absolute discretion, to accept or reject any EOI/Bid/proposal, to pursue negotiations with any number of applicants, to withdraw from negotiations with any applicant at any time, to modify the scope and scale of the present Invitation Document, and to suspend, discontinue, modify and/or terminate this process (or any part thereof) at any time.

13. Clarifications on the Invitation Document

- a. Any entity requiring clarifications on this Invitation Document shall notify the AICF in writing or via email (indianchessfed@gmail.com). The last date to seek such clarification shall be 12:00 hours on 11th October 2023.
- b. Clarifications sought, if any, shall include the following information:
 - a. Name of the entity seeking clarification;
 - b. Clause No. of the Invitation Document;
 - c. Query/ clarification sought.

14. **Pre-Bid Meeting:** The online pre-bidding meeting will be held on 12th October 2023 at 1100 hrs. Link of the meeting would be shared to all Bidders/Applicants.

15. Evaluation

- a. The proposals submitted under this Invitation Document shall be screened on the basis of the criteria/ conditions of eligibility as stated in Clause 10 of this Invitation Document, the presentation made under Clause 11 of this Invitation Document,1 and the submission of the proposal and documents as provided for under Clause 12s of this Invitation Document.

b. Weightage to each criterion pursuant to para 3 above shall be as following:

S.No.	Criteria	Weightage (out of 100)
1.	Financial	20 OVERALL
	Submission of financial statements/ ITR / book-keeping records / audit reports evidencing a minimum Turnover of INR 35,00,00,000/- (Indian Rupees Twenty-Five Crores, only) per year for a period of 3 (three) years;	
2.	Technical	40 OVERALL
	Evaluation of past project, event management, branding experience	
	Evaluation of project proposal to through a power point presentation	
3.	Sporting	40 OVERALL
	Evaluation of relevant experience in relation to the national/international sport market	
	Evaluation of relevant experience with Anti-cheating and other measures being put in place, and events being conducted in compliance with the rules, regulations, constitutions and charters etc. of AICF and FIDE	

c. AICF may require entities meeting the above stated eligibility criteria to further provide detailed information, presentations, etc. with regard to their proposal, provide clarification in case of any discrepancy, and additionally may also require the applicant entity to submit other relevant documents required by AICF to finally adjudicate upon the merits of the Application/Bid.

16. **Earnest Money Deposit**

- a. Upon selection, the selected entity must deposit an earnest money deposit (“**EMD**”) of INR 50,00,000/- (Indian Rupees Fifty Lakhs, only) within 7 (seven) days of receipt of notice of selection. In the event the entity fails to deposit such EMD then such entity shall stand disqualified and any offer made to such selected entity shall stand rescinded, and an offer for the rights to conduct and operate the League may, at the sole discretion of AICF, be extended to the next most qualified entity, if any.
- b. In the event of failure of all qualifying entities (in accordance with the criteria set out herein) to deposit the EMD within the requisite time, this Invitation for Expression(s) of Interest shall be deemed to be null and void and AICF, at its sole discretion, may issue a new advertisement for expression of interest, on like or modified terms.

17. **General Conditions**

- a. This Invitation Document is not an offer and is issued without any commitment or binding effect. AICF reserves the unfettered right and absolute discretion and without any liability to the entity whatsoever, to:
 - i. amend, vary, waive and modify any and/or all the terms and conditions of this Invitation Document;
 - ii. accept or reject any or all proposals received under this Invitation Document; or
 - iii. annul the process and reject all proposals under this Invitation Document;at any time prior to awarding rights to or accepting the proposal of any entity, however the same shall be carried out on justified grounds and shall be a reasoned decision.
- b. Any attempts, efforts, or endeavours by the entities expressing interest under this Invitation Document, to influence, sway, or affect the submission of proposals, the process of evaluation, the result of the evaluation, etc., by any overt or covert act, shall result in non-consideration/ rejection of such entity’s Applicatio/Bid/proposal by AICF.
- c. AICF reserves the right to reschedule, change, or alter the dates/ times stated in this Invitation Document without assigning any reason whatsoever. Changes, if any, shall be notified on AICF’s website.
- d. **Dispute Resolution:** All disputes or differences arising out of or in connection with this Invitation Document shall be settled by bilateral discussions. Any dispute, disagreement, or question arising out of or relating to with this Invitation Document, or relating to its

construction or performance, which cannot be settled amicably, shall be resolved through arbitration under the Arbitration & Conciliation Act, 1996.

- e. In case of any dispute arising out of or in relation to this Invitation Document, the courts of New Delhi shall have exclusive jurisdiction over the same.
- f. It is the duty of the entity making a proposal under this Invitation Document to provide AICF with truthful information without concealing any facts of the entity, especially those relevant to, and/or that may affect the outcome of, any proposal made under this Invitation Document. In the event any information provided by the entity is found to be false/ incorrect/ concealed, AICF shall have the absolute right, at any stage, to take any action as it deems fit without incurring any liability to the affected entity on the grounds of AICF's action or decision.
- g. The process of evaluation and selection of the entity applying shall be in a fair and transparent manner.

18. Acceptance of Terms and Condition

Each applicant entity irrevocably and unconditionally accepts and agrees that by submitting the proposal:

- a. it agrees to be bound by the terms, conditions, obligations set out in this Invitation Document;
- b. it has read, understood, agrees, and accepts each of the provisions, terms and conditions of this Invitation Document; and
- c. by submitting a proposal, it is impliedly warranting that it is a person who satisfies all eligibility criteria set out herein.