

September 28, 2022

Basic Plan for the "World Inter-City Children's Shogi Team Competition (tentative name)"

1. Introduction

ISPS (International Shogi Popularization Society), as an NPO, has been promoting Shogi overseas for about 30 years. Shogi was rarely played overseas except by Japanese at the time of ISPS inception. However, it has become so popular in many countries that the International Shogi Tournament is now held with players from 50 countries. We are proud to say that the ISPS has played an important part in this development.

Currently, the ISPS has 16 directors and 135 members, with 2 professional Shogi players, Teruichi AONO 9-dan and Kenji KOBAYASHI 9-dan as advisors. The ISPS has been trusted by the Japan Shogi Association (JSA: Nihon Shogi Renmei) and have been asked to cooperate in many international tournaments and Shogi promotion events held by the JSA. And the ISPS has made many achievements for the promotion of Shogi in the world.

In light of the current situation, the ISPS considers that we should go one step further from the stage of "popularization of Shogi" (We let people know that Shogi exists in Japan, and it is quite interesting. And we tried to increase Shogi lovers in the world). Now we are aiming to "establishing" Shogi everywhere in the world.

In order to establish Shogi in the world, it is essential to focus on children all over the world. When many children come into contact with Shogi, are fascinated by it, and make it a part of their lives, and when they grow up and try to convey the enchanting fun of Shogi to many other kids, we will judge that Shogi has taken root and become "established" in each region.

To do so, we would like to count on the help of members of "Japan

Shogi Association Overseas Branches" and other Shogi lovers in various parts of the world. We hope they spread Shogi to kids in each region and make Shogi lovers kids leaders of Shogi promotion.

ISPS has planned a creation of the "World Inter-City Children's Shogi Team Competition to promote this idea. We aim to motivate both coaches and children, to help children make friends with other children, and to support the creation of community-based teams. At the same time, we hope to convey to the children of the world the essence of Japanese spirits and culture, arousing their intellectual inquiring mind.

For these purposes, we are planning to launch the "World Inter-City Children's Shogi Team Competition (tentative name)". We wish to see your understanding of this project, and we look forward to your participation and cooperation in this endeavor.

2. Implementation of the competition

The first competition will be held with the participation of teams from "Northeast Asia region", "Southeast Asia region", and "Oceania region". And it will be later expanded to the rest of the world.

Outline of the First Competition

- (1) The tournament will be a team competition. Each team will have three member-players and one team manager.
- (2) As a general rule, team members shall be children 12 years old or younger. However, one child (15 years old or younger) will be allowed to participate. Each team shall be accompanied by one team manager (25 years or older).
- (3) The tournament will be conducted by online, using "81 Dojo" and "Zoom".

(4) There shall be two city representative teams or less.

(5) Certain number of Regional representative teams will be selected among city representative teams. The way of selection shall be decided by each district through consultation with the senior advisors of the region. The number of regional representative teams is described in (10).

(6) The regions shall be "Northeast Asia Region," "Southeast Asia Region," and "Oceania Region."

(7) The "Northeast Asia Region" shall consist of China, Hong Kong, Taiwan, South Korea, Far Eastern Russia, and Mongolia.

(8) The "Southeast Asia Region" shall be Vietnam, the Philippines, Malaysia, Singapore, Thailand, Cambodia, Laos, Myanmar, Indonesia, Timor-Leste, and Brunei.

(9) "Oceania Region" shall be the countries of Australia, New Zealand, Polynesian countries, Melanesian countries and Micronesian countries.

(10) The number of representative teams for each region shall be as follows:

4 teams for the Northeast Asia Region

2 teams for the Southeast Asia Region

2 teams for the Oceania Region

(11) The final competition will be conducted as a tournament, to determine the winner, runner-up, and third-place finishers. Awards will be presented.

(12) The final will be organized by the ISPS with the cooperation of the senior advisors of the regions.

(13) If possible, we would like to invite the winning team to Japan. (If

possible, we would like to hold the grand final in Japan).

(14) The name of the competition will be decided when sponsors and other stakeholders are finalized.

3. Planned schedule

(1) Distribute the prospectus and basic plan to the "Overseas Branches of the JSA" and other parties concerned, and encourage the overseas branches of the JSA and others to prepare for participation. (end September 2022)

(2) Hold a meeting of representatives from Southeast Asian cities (October 2022).

(3) Conference of representatives from cities in Northeast Asia, Southeast Asia, and Oceania. (November 2022).

(4) Present the detailed implementation guidelines for the "World Inter-City Children's Shogi Team Competition" to the overseas branches of the JSA. (March 2023)

(5) Preliminary rounds held in each region (by October 2023)

(6) Inter-regional tournament (by October 2023)

(7) Grand Final (November 2023)

4. Future prospects

Teams of other regions will be added in the second and subsequent competitions. Thus, the competition will become really an world-wide event.

(End)