

WORLD CUP QUALIFICATION FORMULA

By Ignatius Leong

This is the 4th time I have submitted a proposal concerning the necessity to re-calculate the qualifying places for the World Cup. The current places were made since 1997 and no changes had been made despite the rapid development of chess worldwide. Moreover, a formula is necessary to make the qualification places more dynamic and continental boards would have to work harder to ensure their continents do not lose out.

1. Using the first 5 World Cups, points were awarded to the continents based on the round in which their players reached.

2 points for Round 2,
3 points for Round 3,
4 points for Round 4,
5 points for Quarter-Finals,
7 points for Semi-Finals,
9 points for Finals,
13 points for the Winner.
2. A maximum of 200 points are available in each edition. The average score (whether 5 editions or more) of each continent is then taken. Rounding upwards to a whole number, this will be the number of bonus places a continent will earn.
3. The basic number of places each continent will have is about 1 place for every 5 federations. This is arbitrary and can be re-defined.
4. There should be 2 editions of the World Junior Championships taken into consideration.
5. While maintain a basic number of nominees for the FIDE President and the Host, the only variable number could be the number of Top Rated Players. As in most sports, many feel that this number should be reduced to encourage the top players to be more active by participating in the Continental Championships.
6. It should be noted that Europe is by far the most developed continent, and whatever formula is adopted, Europe will have far more qualifying places than the other 3 continents unless the latter make substantial growth in chess development. Hence, for the next years, we could put a cap to Europe to maximum 50 places.
7. If the formula is adopted, we should calculate based on the last 5 editions.
8. This formula can also apply for the Women's Championship – proposal is to increase this to 128-players.

World Cup 2013 - Continental Qualifiers

A) 20 qualifiers from Asia and Americas

Starting from the World Cup 2013, the proposal of the WCOC is to increase the minimum number of qualifiers from Americas and Asia to 20 respectively (from 19) and reducing the number of qualifiers by rating to 18 (from 20).

B) Indicative study according to Ignatius's formula

The numbers are calculated from the 2007 and 2009 events. Based on Ignatius's formula, for 2007 and 2009 the points of each continent divided by the number of players from each continent, further divided by 2 for the average gives us:

Americas: 0.84 (1.0 for 2007 and 0.68 for 2009)

Asia: 1.13 (1.13 and 1.12)

Europe: 2.04 (1.96 and 2.12)

Total $0.84 + 1.13 + 2.04 = 4.01$

$100 / 4.01 = 24.938$

So on a percentage basis for 94 spots, if we use the formula of Ignatius for 2007 and 2009, the rounded results are:

Americas $0.84 \times 24.938 = 20.94\%$ (of 94) = **20 spots**

Asia $1.13 \times 24.938 = 28.18\%$ (of 94) = **26 spots**

Europe $2.04 \times 24.938 = 50.87\%$ (of 94) = **48 spots**

Africa keeps the same number of guaranteed spots = **6 spots**

The remaining qualifying spots can be from:

- b) rating July 2012 & January 2013 (**10 spots**)
- c) World Champion + four (4) semi-finalists from the World Cup 2011 (**5 spots**)
- d) Women's World Champion (**1 spot**)
- e) World Junior U-20 Champions 2011 & 2012 (**2 spots**)
- f) President nominees (**6 spots**)
- g) Organiser nominees (**4 spots**)

TOTAL = 128 spots