

## **Regulations for the 2014 - 2015 FIDE World Chess Grand-Prix Series**

### **1. Introduction**

**1.1.** Following the approval of the FIDE Presidential Board, the World Championship and Olympiad Commission of FIDE (WCOC) has agreed on these Regulations which will apply to the Grand Prix Series which forms part of the World Championship Cycle for 2014/2016.

**1.2.** For the purpose of creating the regulations and communicating with the players the President has nominated a committee, hereby called the World Chess Championship & Olympiad Commission (WCOC) which will co-operate with AGON, the organizer of the World Chess Championship Cycle.

**1.3.** Upon recommendation by the WCOC, the body responsible for any changes to these Regulations is the FIDE Presidential Board.

**1.4.** At any time in the course of the application of these Regulations, any circumstances that are not covered or any unforeseen event shall be referred to the President of FIDE for final decision.

### **2. Format of the Grand Prix 2014-2015**

The Grand Prix Series will consist of four tournaments to be held over two years (2014-2015). 16 top players will be selected in accordance with Section 3 below to compete in these tournaments. Each player agrees and will contract to participate in exactly 3 of these 4 tournaments.

Which tournaments each player will play in will be selected in accordance with Section 4 below. Notwithstanding anything else contained in these Regulations however, FIDE reserves the right in its sole discretion to assign players to tournaments. The assignment of players to tournaments will be announced in a timely manner before the Grand Prix Series begins.

Each tournament will have 12 players playing over a schedule of fourteen days. The dates scheduled for the Grand Prix tournaments are listed on the FIDE website and may be subject to change.

The winner and second placed player overall of the Grand Prix Series will qualify for the Candidates Tournament to be held in the last quarter of 2015 or the first half of 2016.

### **3. Qualifiers for the Grand Prix 2014-2015**

The players who qualify for selection to play in the Grand Prix Series will be chosen on the following prioritised basis until 16 players have accepted:

**3.1 World Championship Match.** The current World Champion and his opponent in the most recent World Championship Match **(2 players)**.

**3.2 World Cup.** The players who have qualified to the semi final stages of the FIDE World Cup 2013 in Tromsø **(4 players)**.

**3.3 FIDE President Nominee.** The FIDE President may nominate a player who must be rated at least 2700 as per the January 2014 rating list **(1 player)**.

**3.4 Organiser Nominees.** Four players may be nominated by AGON on behalf of the local organisers (4 players).

**3.5 Rating.** Based on an average calculation to two decimal places of the average from all published FIDE ratings of classical chess from 1 May 2013 to 1 April 2014 divided by twelve (12), the remaining players will be selected. If players have the same average rating then the total number of rated games in the twelve lists from 1 May 2013 to 1 April 2014 shall be decisive. That means the player with the greater number of games shall qualify. A minimum of thirty (30) games are required for each player in the twelve FIDE rating lists of classical chess from 1 May 2013 to 1 April 2014 (5 players)

**3.6 Replacements.** Any replacement for the initial selection, will be selected on the basis of Article 3.5 which takes into account the average rating and greater number of games, if of equal rating.

#### **4. Tournament Rules**

**4.1** Each player will play in three of the four tournaments and all three results will be counted for the final ranking.

**4.2** Players must rank their preference of tournaments once the final list of cities is announced and the dates are allocated to each city.

**4.3** FIDE is not obliged, but will endeavour to respect the players' preferences, and will balance the player allocation to a host city according to objective criteria such as average tournament rating, and continental representation.

**4.4** Once the players are allocated FIDE, reserves the right to transfer players from one tournament to another within the cycle if required due to exceptional or unexpected circumstances.

**4.5** If a player withdraws from an event after completing 50% or more of the games, the rest of his games are lost by default. In case a player completes fewer than 50% of the games in an event, all his results are annulled. Unless a withdrawal is justified by serious injury or illness, he will forfeit his right to the prize for the tournament and be excluded from the rest of the World Chess Championship cycle.

**4.6** If a player has played two consecutive tournaments with the same starting colour then he will be guaranteed the reverse colour in the third event.

**4.7** Each tournament shall consist of the 12 players playing a round robin of 11 games.

**4.8** Time control: 120 minutes for the first forty moves, 60 minutes for the next twenty moves and then each player will be allotted 15 minutes after the second time control and an increment of 30 seconds per move will be allowed from move 61 onwards.

**4.9** The players are not permitted to speak to their opponents during the games. Appropriate sporting behaviour is expected from all participants and FIDE rules of conduct are to be strictly followed at all times.

**4.10** The players cannot draw a game by agreement before black's 30th move. A claim for a draw before black's 30th move is permitted only through the Chief Arbiter (or his Deputy) in the cases of perpetual check or threefold repetition.

The Chief Arbiter is the only authority who can acknowledge the final result of the game in these cases.

#### **5. Tournament Schedule**

## **5.1 Schedule of each tournament:**

1st day:	Arrivals & Opening Ceremony
2nd day:	Round 1
3rd day:	Round 2
4th day:	Round 3
5th day:	Round 4
6th day:	Free day
7th day:	Round 5
8th day:	Round 6
9th day:	Round 7
10th day:	Free day
11th day:	Round 8
12th day:	Round 9
13th day:	Round 10
14th day:	Round 11, Closing Ceremony
15th day:	Departures

**5.2** Upon reasonable request of the organisers, or the WCOC after consultation with AGON, the FIDE President may vary the schedule.

## **6. Participation**

**6.1** When FIDE has confirmed the names of the qualified players, organisers, venues and dates, the participants will be able to download the copy of the Player's Agreement from the FIDE website [www.fide.com](http://www.fide.com) and shall send to FIDE within one week (a) by email a scan of their signed Agreement and (b) by post a print copy of their signed Agreement (date of posting to be evidenced by a post- mark). This is the player's responsibility. All participants have to sign and send the Player's Agreement to the FIDE Secretariat, by the deadline, which will be announced on the FIDE website, after the official announcement of the Grand Prix Series.

**6.2** A Player who withdraws from the Grand Prix at any time following signature and delivery of the signed Player Agreement and who fails to provide a reason that FIDE in its sole discretion deems reasonable, will be excluded from the next World Championship cycle. Such exclusion is in addition to and without prejudice to any other action or sanction that FIDE may reserve or be entitled to take.

**6.3** In the case of any withdrawal prior to two weeks before the commencement of the cycle, FIDE will replace the player who has withdrawn with the next highest rated player in the rating list as calculated in Article 3.2. This player will accept the withdrawn player's Grand Prix tournament schedule in its entirety.

**6.4** If a player withdraws from the Grand Prix for any reason whatsoever, less than two weeks prior to the commencement of the Grand Prix Series or during the cycle, then FIDE reserves the right to select one or more players at its discretion, with a rating not less than 2700, as may be required.

**6.5** Subject to Section 4.4 above, if a player withdraws from the Grand Prix then his results will stand in respect of the Grand Prix ranking points gained during any of the tournaments the player may have participated in already.

**6.6** Based on the merits of each case, FIDE may decide to replace a player for one or more tournaments.

## **7. Prize Money & Grand Prix Points**

**7.1** The total Grand Prix prize fund for the four tournaments in aggregate is 480,000 euros ("**Prize Fund**").

**7.2** The Prize Fund will be split equally between each tournament. The prize money which will be paid by AGON for each tournament is 120,000 Euros. The prize money for each Tournament will be split as follows:

<b>PLACING</b>	<b>PRIZE € (Euros)</b>	<b>GP RANKING POINTS</b>
1 <sup>st</sup>	20,000	120+50
2 <sup>nd</sup>	15,000	110+30
3 <sup>rd</sup>	13,000	100+10
4 <sup>th</sup>	11,000	90
5 <sup>th</sup>	10,000	80
6 <sup>th</sup>	9,500	70
7 <sup>th</sup>	9,000	60
8 <sup>th</sup>	8,500	50
9 <sup>th</sup>	7,500	40
10 <sup>th</sup>	6,500	30
11 <sup>th</sup>	5,500	20
12 <sup>th</sup>	4,500	10
	<b>120,000 € (Euros)</b>	

All prizes and Grand Prix ranking points are shared equally, in cases of any tied position/s. No tie break system will be utilised for the individual Grand Prix tournaments. The process of determining the overall winner of the cycle, in the case of a tie, is defined in Article 7.3

### **7.3 Tie Break for Overall Winner**

With the objective of determining qualifiers to play in the Candidates Tournament, and in the case that two or more players have equal cumulative points at the top, the following criteria will be utilized to decide the overall Series winner and other overall placings by taking into account all three tournaments:

1. No. of actual game result points scored in the three tournaments;
2. Number of games played with black in the three tournaments;
3. Number of wins;
4. No.of wins with black
5. Drawing of lots

## **8. Financial details**

**8.1** FIDE or its appointed commercial agency has exclusive rights to the Series and each tournament and is free to exploit them commercially in its sole discretion. This may include entering into advertisement agreements, either with the Organizers or Sponsors, requiring players to wear clothes with the branding of sponsors or other Organizers or Sponsors if this has been requested from the players before they sign their agreements.

**8.2** All broadcasting and media rights including television and Internet Web transmission rights, video and film rights, and data rights shall belong to FIDE or its appointed commercial agency.

**8.3** For the avoidance of doubt FIDE or its appointed commercial agency shall have the exclusive rights for live games on the Internet.

**8.4** All costs related to the anti-doping test procedure, if FIDE decides it is required, including the medical facilities and doctors, will be covered by the local Organising Committee.

**8.5** Organisers are responsible for paying for the following minimum organizational costs:

- Travelling expenses for 12 players plus 4 FIDE Principals and two Agon representatives up to a maximum of 800 Euros per player travelling from the same continent and 1,200 Euros for players travelling from other continents for economy class tickets. Any travelling costs for accompanying persons will be the players' responsibility.
- Full Board and lodging costs for 18 people in double rooms with single occupancy (including two Agon representatives), for 15 days/14 nights in hotels classified not less than Four Star. For clarification, each person will have a double room, and for the FIDE President, a suite.
- Stipends for the 5 FIDE Principals (Chairman of Appeals Committee x 3,000 Euros, Chief Arbitrator x 3,000 Euros, Deputy Arbitrator x 2,000 Euros, Press Officer x 2,500 Euros). 10,500 Euros.
- Agon management & support fee. 15,000 Euros.
- To FIDE a sum of 24,000 Euros, for each event, over and above the individual event prize fund of 120,000 Euros.

**8.6** The Organisers will further provide and cover the costs for:

- Tournament hall and organisations rooms in the venue with appropriate lighting and standards expected for world class tournaments;
- Press centre and facilities;
- Transfer of players and principals to / from venue and to / from Airport;
- Drug testing, if required;
- Inspection visits by Agon and FIDE representative.

## **9. Arrangements for the Playing Hall.**

**9.1.** The WCOC shall ensure the playing hall and its environs meet the requirements of the FIDE Regulations for the Organization of Top Level Tournaments (as per FIDE Handbook).

**9.2** The playing venue shall be decorated with the FIDE flag, IOC flag, the flags of the host nation and the participating players' Federations and display the sponsors' branding as directed by AGON.

**9.3.** Once the WCOC has agreed with the Organisers on the arrangements in respect of the tournament hall, facilities, accommodation and meals, transportation, telecommunication, ceremonies, no objections from the participants shall be permitted or accepted.

## **10. Interviews, functions and mode of dressing.**

The Player's obligations are more particularly set out in the Player Agreement referred to in Section 6.1 above and include:

**10.1.** The players are expected to cooperate reasonably with the media. General interviews with them have to be arranged through the FIDE Press Officer, the same day or the next day after the end of the event.

**10.2.** The players are required to make themselves available for short interviews immediately after each game. All winners and medalists are obliged to attend the final press conference after the event has ended and to provide an exclusive interview for the FIDE website, if requested by the FIDE Press Officer. Players violating these rules will be subjected to the penalties mentioned in the event regulations.

**10.3.** Players are required to be present at all official functions approved by FIDE President or his representative during the Tournament including official receptions and the opening and closing ceremonies.

**10.4.** Players are specifically requested to note the requirements of FIDE Regulations in respect of their dignified appearance at all times during the event.

**10.5** In the event of any inconsistency between the Player's Agreement and these Regulations concerning this Section 10, the Player Agreement will prevail.

**11. Photography and Television.** Only photographers and camera crews expressly authorized by FIDE or AGON will be accredited and permitted in the playing venue.

## **12. Principals**

**12.1** The FIDE President shall be appointed as a FIDE Principal for the purposes of the Grand Prix.

**12.2** The Principals are:

- a) President and Deputy President, one of them being the Chairman of the Appeals Committee;
- b) Members of the Appeals Committee;
- c) Arbiters;
- d) Press Officer;
- e) Representative of FIDE Medical Commission;
- f) 2 WCOC members;

**12.3** All principals will be hosted on a full board basis by the organisers for the duration of their stay.

## **13. Tournament and Playing Conditions**

**13.1.** Apart from the players and principals, no other person shall be allowed in the actual playing area during the games, except with the express permission of the Chief Arbitrator.

**13.2.** The players are not permitted to bring into the playing venue any electronic or technical or other equipment extraneous to play, which may in any way disturb or upset the opponent or may be in breach of

the Rules of Chess. The Chief Arbiter shall decide what constitutes extraneous equipment liable to offend the opponent or may be in breach of the Rules of Chess.

**13.3** The players shall shake hands (or shall greet each other in a normal social manner in accordance with the conventional rules of their society) before the start and after the end of each game. If a player fails to meet these requirements and after being asked to do so by the Chief Arbiter, then the player will lose the game immediately.

**13.4** During the game, a player may talk only to an arbiter or communicate with a steward.

**13.5** Organizers shall provide, free of charge, sufficient coffee, tea and soft drinks for the players and principals. The Organisers are advised that the same offer should apply for the press members.

**13.6** The Organisers shall provide score sheets according to the specifications provided by the WCOC. At the end of each game the players' original score sheets shall be given to the Arbiter, who shall hand them over to FIDE in due course. Refusal by either player to sign the score sheets shall be penalized according to the Laws of Chess. After the players have signed the score sheets, the Arbiter shall countersign to confirm the results.

**13.7** All players are required to attend a Players' meeting at a date and time to be decided by the Chief Arbiter. If deemed necessary, the Chief Arbiter may call other Players' Meetings. The drawing of lots will take place during the first Players' meeting or in the Opening Ceremony.

**13.8** During play either the Chief Arbiter or the Deputy Chief Arbiter shall be present in the playing area.

**13.9** The Chief Arbiter may, in consultation with the Chairman of Appeals Committee and after the approval of the FIDE President, issue additional written regulations to lay down the exact playing hours and take care of other details not covered by these Regulations.

**13.10** Immediately after the end of the event, the Chief Arbiter shall draw up a report in the English language and send it without delay to the FIDE Secretariat. The report shall be supplemented by adding two copies of the bulletins of the event if there are any issued. The report shall contain the result of each individual game as well as the final standings of the event. In addition, the report shall contain a general description of the course of the event.

**13.11** Immediately after the end of the event, the Chairman of Appeals Committee shall draw up a report in the English language and send it without delay to the FIDE Secretariat. The report shall contain an overview of the organisation, the conditions and any other matter that may be deemed relevant by the Chairman of Appeals Committee.

## **14. Appeals Committee.**

**14.1** The Appeals Committee will decide on the following matters: \_

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- an appeal against a decision by an arbiter,
- a protest against a player's behaviour,
- a complaint alleging false interpretation of the regulations,
- a request for the interpretation of specific regulations,
- a protest or complaint against any participant, or
- all other matters which the Committee considers important.

**14.2** The Chairman plus two players and two reserves nominated by the President will be chosen during the Players' meeting to constitute the Appeals Committee.

**14.3** No member of the Appeals Committee shall sit in judgement in a dispute involving a player or party from his Federation except where the dispute is between two players or two parties from his Federation.

**14.4** All protests must be submitted in writing to the Appeals Committee not more than two hours after the relevant playing session, or the particular infringement complained against.

**14.5** If possible, the Appeal Committee shall reach a decision not more than 2 hours after the submission of a protest. The appeals process shall include written representations and a written decision. The Appeal Committee shall endeavour to find binding solutions that are within the true spirit of the FIDE motto, Gens Una Sumus.

**14.6** Each protest must be accompanied by a deposit fee of €500 or a written statement that this fee can be deducted from the prize fund if the protest is rejected. If the protest is accepted, the fee shall be returned. If the protest is rejected, then in this case, FIDE reserves the right to withhold the deposit fee.

**14.7** The decision of the Appeals Committee arising from any dispute in respect of these Regulations shall be final.

**15. Opening Ceremony for each tournament.** The Players are obliged to attend a short Opening Ceremony which shall take place.

**16. Closing Ceremony of each tournament.** The Players are obliged to attend the Closing Ceremony shall take place according to schedule. The Organizer shall provide three trophies to the first three placed players. The FIDE Anthem, the anthem of the winner's country and the anthem of the host country shall be played.

## **17. Payment of Prize Money and Stipends**

**17.1.** The prize fund and stipends shall be paid by direct bank transfer in Euros within 14 days from FIDE's bankers UBS, Lausanne.

**17.2.** FIDE or AGON shall not be responsible if any national tax has to be deducted from the prize money or for any tax obligation of the participants in their respective countries.

## **18. Penalties**

**18.1** Notwithstanding and without prejudice to any other provisions of these Regulations, should a player be in breach of conduct of any of these regulations, then the player may be subject to an automatic penalty, by FIDE, of €1,000 for each such breach.

**18.2** Should a player be in repeated breach of any of these Regulations, FIDE reserves the right to expel the player from the tournament and subject the player to an automatic fine of €2,500. In this case, the expelled player will not have any right to any prize money, irrespective of his standing at the time of expulsion.

**18.3** Should a player withdraw from a tournament or the Grand Prix Series without proper justification to the WCOC, then an automatic penalty of €5,000 will be imposed by FIDE on the player and the player may be excluded from the next World Championship cycle.