



Regulations for the FIDE Candidates Tournament 2020

1. Scope

1. 1. The FIDE Candidates Tournament (hereinafter referred to as CT) shall be organized in the first half of 2020.
1. 2. Governing Body is the World Chess Federation (FIDE).
1. 3. FIDE Global Strategy Commission (hereinafter referred to as GSC) is in charge for preparing Regulations, communicating with the Participants and the Organizer, conducting inspections.
1. 4. The body responsible for adopting and changing these Regulations is the FIDE Presidential Board, upon recommendation by GSC.
1. 5. At any time, any circumstance or unforeseen situation not covered in these Regulations shall be referred to the FIDE President for final decision.

2. Qualification

2. 1. Eight players qualify to CT by the following criteria:
 - A. **1 place – FIDE World Championship Match 2018, Runner-up**
One place is reserved for GM Caruana: the runner-up of the World Championship Match 2018.
 - B. **2 places – FIDE World Cup 2019**
Two places are reserved for the finalists of the FIDE World Cup 2019. If GM Carlsen and/or GM Caruana is (are) among the finalists, the reserved place(s) is (are) awarded to the next non-qualifying player(s) of the FIDE World Cup 2019.
 - C. **1 place – FIDE Grand Swiss Tournament 2019**
One place is reserved for the winner of the FIDE Grand Swiss Tournament 2019. If the winner also qualifies via Clause A or B, or is GM Carlsen, the reserved place is awarded to the next non-qualifying player in the final standings.
 - D. **2 places – FIDE Grand Prix Series 2019**
Two places are reserved for the players who finish 1st and 2nd in the FIDE Grand Prix Series 2019. If either one of these players also qualifies via Clauses A, B, or C, and/or is GM Carlsen, the reserved place(s) is (are) awarded to the next non-qualifying player in the final ranking.
 - E. **1 place – Highest Average FIDE Rating (Standard Rating Lists, Feb. 2019—Jan. 2020)**
One place is reserved for the player with the highest average FIDE rating. For the purpose of deciding the qualifier, the average ELO rating from the twelve (12) FIDE Standard Rating Lists from February 2019 to January 2020 is used. In the event of a tie, the average is recalculated to the second decimal place. If the averages are still tied, the player with the greatest total number of rated games during the period earns the spot. If that player also qualifies via Clauses A, B, C or D or is GM Carlsen, the reserved place is awarded to the next non-qualifying player (based on the same criteria).

In order to be eligible via Clause E, players should have 30 standard rated games played within twelve FIDE Standard Rating Lists from February 2019 to January 2020, including at least 18 standard rated games played within six (6) FIDE Standard Rating Lists from August 2019 to January 2020.

If any of the qualifying players is unable to attend, his place is awarded to the next non-qualifying player (based on Clause E).
 - F. **1 place – Player nominated by the Organizer**
The Organizer of the FIDE Candidates Tournament 2020 has the right to nominate a player who meets at least one of the following criteria (provided that he participates in at least two events listed below in b., c. and d.):
 - a. The player from the top-10 players by average FIDE rating as per Clause E;
 - b. The player placed third in the FIDE World Cup 2019 (if the third player is qualified - then the player placed fourth, but not any further);
 - c. The best non-qualifying player from the FIDE Grand Swiss 2019;
 - d. The best non-qualifying player from the FIDE Grand Prix Series 2019.

2. 2. If any replacements are needed including due to a withdrawal or a refusal of participation, then the procedure as in Article 2.1.E is applied.

3. Confirmation of Participation

3. 1. Each player receives his contract by email. He may also download his contract from the FIDE website. Each player signs and sends his contract to the FIDE Secretariat by the registered email before a fixed deadline indicated in the email sent to each player and announced on the FIDE website. Additional contracts between the Organizer and the players may be signed if needed.

3. 2. A player who does not submit his contract before the deadline is replaced according to Article 2.2. (FIDE may accept late contracts received after the deadline only for reasons GSC considers to be admissible).

3. 3. A player who signs his contract but withdraws is replaced as described in Article 2.2.

3. 4. A player who fails to provide a satisfactory reason for withdrawal, after he have signed the player's contract, may be sanctioned by the FIDE Presidential Board.

5. Tournament Regulations

4. 1. Format & System

4. 1. 1. The 8 players play a double round robin tournament (14 rounds).

4. 1. 2. The winner qualifies for the 2020 FIDE World Chess Championship Match.

4. 2. Travel and Accommodation

4. 2. 1. Each player gets his travel expenses reimbursed (based on the standard economy class or comparable tariffs).

4. 2. 2. Each player is provided with two (2) free single rooms in the official hotel, including full board (in all Articles of these Regulations the full board may be substituted by a daily allowance, the amount to be agreed between the Organizer and GSC) for the whole duration of CT.

4. 2. 3. For security and administrative reasons, all participants are expected to stay in the officially designated hotel.

4. 3. Playing venue

4. 3. 1. GSC ensures the playing hall and its environs meet the requirements of the FIDE Regulations for the organization of Top-level Tournaments (FIDE Handbook C.01).

4. 3. 2. The playing venue is decorated with the FIDE flag, the IOC flag, the flags of the host nation and the participating countries.

4. 3. 3. The Organizer provides, free of charge, coffee, tea, soft drinks and snacks for the players, principals and accredited media.

4. 3. 4. The Organizer provides a special VIP-zone according to requirements to be specified in the contract.

4. 4. Schedule

DAY	EVENT
Day 1	Arrivals
Day 2	Opening Ceremony & Technical Meeting
Day 3	Round 1
Day 4	Round 2
Day 5	Round 3
Day 6	Free day
Day 7	Round 4
Day 8	Round 5
Day 9	Round 6
Day 10	Free day
Day 11	Round 7
Day 12	Round 8

Day 13	Round 9
Day 14	Free day
Day 15	Round 10
Day 16	Round 11
Day 17	Round 12
Day 18	Free day:
Day 19	Round 13
Day 20	Round 14
Day 21	Tie-breaks & Closing Ceremony
Day 22	Departures

The playing schedule may be changed only upon approval of the FIDE President.

4. 5. Pairings

4. 5. 1. Pairings are announced not later than thirty (30) days before the beginning of CT.

4. 5. 2. Players from the same federation play each other in rounds 1 and 8 (if only two) and if up to four players are from the same federation - in rounds 1, 2, 3 and 8, 9, 10.

4. 5. 3. If a player withdraws after completing 50% or more of the games, the rest of his games are lost by default. In case a player completes less than 50%, all his results are annulled.

4. 5. 4. No postponement of any game is allowed.

4. 5. 5. For tie-break games, there is a separate drawing of lots conducted by the Chief Arbiter.

4. 6. Time control

4. 6. 1. The games are played using the electronic clocks and boards approved by FIDE.

4. 6. 2. The time control for each game is: 100 minutes for the first 40 moves, followed by 50 minutes for the next 20 moves and then 15 minutes for the rest of the game with an increment of 30 seconds per move starting from move 1.

4. 7. Draw by mutual agreement

The players cannot draw a game by agreement before black's 40th move. A claim for a draw before black's 40th move is permitted only through the Chief Arbiter or his Deputy in case of threefold repetition.

4. 8. Conditions of victory

4. 8. 1. The player with the most points (1 point for each win, half a point for each draw, 0 for each loss) is the winner of the tournament and qualifies for the 2020 FIDE World Championship Match. A tie is broken according to Article 4.8.2. below.

4. 8. 2. Tie-breaks

If two (2) or more players score the same number of points, the tie is decided by the following criteria, in order of priority:

a) The results of the games between the players involved in the tie.

b) Each tied player's total number of wins in the tournament.

c) Sonneborn-Berger System.

4. 8. 3. If there is a clear winner after applying the procedure described in 4.8.2, all other ties not broken by 4.8.2 are decided by drawing of lots.

4. 8. 4. If there are two (2) players in tie for the first place after applying the procedure described in 4.8.2., a tie-break play-off is held between these players to determine the winner and the runner-up (see **Annex 2**). All other ties not broken by 4.8.2 are decided by drawing of lots.

4. 8. 5. If there are more than two (2) players in tie for the first place after applying the procedure described in 4.8.2., the drawing of lots decides two (2) players who participate in a tie-break play-off to determine the winner and the runner-up (see **Annex 2**). All other ties not broken by 4.8.2 are decided by drawing of lots.

4. 9. Prizes

4. 9. 1. The total minimum prize fund of CT amounts to five hundred thousand (500,000) euros. The amount is net and cleared of any local taxes. The exact amount of the prize fund and its distribution is announced after the bidding procedure, upon the selection of the Organizer.

All prize money are divided equally when players have the same score after 14 rounds.

4. 9. 2. The prize money are paid by direct banker's order drawn in euros. Within fourteen (14) working days after completion of the event and reception of player's bank details, FIDE transfers players' prize money to his bank account.

4. 9. 3. If a player withdraws after the start of the tournament, FIDE decides upon paying out his prize money depending on particular circumstances.

4. 9. 4. Although FIDE endeavours to sign an agreement with the Organizer stating that the prizes are net and free of all local taxes, FIDE is not responsible for any national local tax deducted from the prize money. FIDE shall provide all necessary assistance to the players if the Organizer acts to the contrary.

4. 10. Playing Conditions

4. 10. 1. The fair-play measures are applied according to the FIDE Anti-Cheating Guidelines (FIDE Handbook, A10).

4. 10. 2. Except with the permission of the Chief Arbiter, only the players, the principals and stewards are allowed in a playing area. A player may only communicate with an arbiter or a steward.

4. 10. 3. The players are not permitted to bring into a playing area telephone, technical and other equipment extraneous to play, which may in any way disturb or upset their opponents. The Chief Arbiter decides what constitutes extraneous equipment disturbing the opponent.

4. 10. 4. During the playing session, a player may leave the playing area only with the permission of the Chief Arbiter and only if he is accompanied by one of the arbiters.

4. 10. 5. The anti-doping test procedure is regulated by the contract between FIDE and the Organizer.

4. 11. Scoresheets

4. 11. 1. The Organizer provides scoresheets according to the specifications provided by GSC.

4. 11. 2. At the end of each standard game the players' original scoresheets are given to the Chief Arbiter, who shall forward them to FIDE. Refusal of either player to sign the scoresheets is penalized according to the Laws of Chess (FIDE Handbook, E.01, Article 12.9). After the players have signed the scoresheets, the Arbiter countersigns to confirm the results.

4. 11. 3. In tie-break games, the players and the Arbiter sign a result sheet.

4. 12. Players conduct

4. 12. 1. The dress code is strictly observed for the tournament and all the official events and press-conferences.

4. 12. 1. 1. Dress code for men: neat shirt and formal suit.

4. 12. 1. 2. Dress code for women: neat shirt/blouse and formal suit (with slacks or skirt) or dress.

4. 12. 1. 3. No players with t-shirts, jeans, shorts, sneakers, baseball caps or inappropriate dress are allowed in a playing area. Any requests to wear national or traditional dress must be approved by GSC.

4. 12. 2. The players are required to attend the Technical Meeting on the day of the Opening Ceremony at a time to be decided by the Chief Arbiter and the Organizer. If necessary, the Chief Arbiter may call additional Technical Meetings.

4. 12. 3. The players are required to be present at all official events approved by GSC including official receptions, the Opening and the Closing Ceremonies.

4. 12. 4. The players are expected to co-operate reasonably with the media. General interviews with them have to be arranged through the FIDE Press Officer.

4. 12. 5. The players are required to make themselves available for post-game press conferences, of not more than 20 minutes duration, immediately after the game.

4. 12. 6. The CT winner is required to attend the final press conference after the event has ended and to provide an exclusive interview for the tournament and the FIDE websites and not less than five (5) media outlets if requested by the FIDE Press Officer.

4. 12. 7. The players are requested to note the requirements of the FIDE Regulations (FIDE Handbook, C.01, Article 8.1) in respect of their dignified appearance at all times during the event.

4. 12. 8. If a player fails to appear at any approved function of the tournament such as official receptions, press conferences or interviews, expresses publicly his inappropriate attitude towards FIDE, the Organizer and sponsors, other players, hosting country or city or conducts himself in a manner contrary to the spirit of sportsmanship or the FIDE Code of Ethics, he shall be penalized as follows: 5% of his prize money shall be forfeited to the Organizer and a further 5% to FIDE for each breach. In cases of serious and/or repeated misconduct, the player may be disqualified from the event. Such decisions can be taken and/or approved by the FIDE Presidential Board.

4. 13. Principals

The Principals are:

- a) FIDE President;
- b) FIDE Deputy President;
- c) Chief Arbiter and Deputy Chief Arbiter;
- d) Supervisor-Chairman of the Appeals Committee and two (2) other members;
- e) FIDE Press Officer;
- f) Member of the FIDE Medical Commission;
- g) Two (2) GSC members.

4. 14. Arbiters

4. 14. 1. The two arbiters of CT are nominated by GSC. No arbiter may belong to the same Federation as any of the players.

4. 14. 2. During play either the Chief Arbiter or his Deputy must be present in a playing area.

4. 14. 3. The Deputy Chief Arbiter performs also functions of the Fair-Play Officer.

4. 14. 4. Within one (1) week after the end of CT the Chief Arbiter submits a report in English to GSC. The report contains the result of each individual game as well as the final standings and also a general description of the course of the event. If there were any difficulties, conflicts or incidents, they shall be described together with the measures taken to deal with them. The report is supplemented by adding two copies of the bulletins and the scoresheets of the games.

4. 14. 5. The Chief Arbiter may, in consultation with GSC, issue additional written Regulations to inform the exact playing hours and take care of other details not covered by these Regulations.

4. 15. Appeals Committee

4. 15. 1. The FIDE President nominates the Supervisor-Chairman and the two (2) other members of the Appeals Committee, all from different Federations. No member may belong to the same Federation as any of the players.

4. 15. 2. Any protest must be submitted in writing to the Appeals Committee not more than two (2) hours after the relevant playing session, or the particular infringement complained against.

4. 15. 3. A protest must be accompanied by a deposit fee of five hundred (500) euros or the equivalent in local currency. If the protest is accepted, the fee shall be returned. If the protest is rejected, the fee may be forfeited to FIDE.

4. 15. 4. The Appeals Committee may decide on the following matters:

- a) appeal against a decision by an arbiter,
- b) protest against a player's behaviour,
- c) all other matters which the Appeals Committee considers important.

4. 15. 5. The Appeals Committee endeavours to find binding solutions that are within the true spirit of the FIDE motto Gens Una Sumus.

5. 15. 6. The Appeals Committee endeavours to make a decision within two (2) hours after submission of a protest.

4. 15. 7. The written decision of the Appeals Committee arising from any dispute in respect of these Regulations is final.

4. 15. 8. The Supervisor-Chairman ensures that the event is held in accordance with these Regulations and secures fair and equal conditions for all the players.

4. 15. 9. Within one (1) week after the end of CT the Supervisor-Chairman submits a report in English to GSC.

4. 16. FIDE Press Officer

4. 16. 1. The Organizer is responsible for managing, updating and reviewing the official web domain which is used for the event: candidates.xxxx2020.fide.com where xxxx refers to the city where the event is held. All content is reviewed and approved by the FIDE Press Officer. All live images, live broadcasting (Internet TV) pictures and all the other content are carried on the official domain. The Organizer shall not develop any other website. In cases of conflicting information and press statements, the views expressed by the FIDE Press Officer is the authentic version.

4. 16. 2. All activities of both FIDE and the Organizer identify FIDE being the Governing Body of CT. The Organizer warrants that the official domain for the event is managed in a professional way and furthermore that it is capable of handling the traffic and publicity that is required for such event. Statistics of traffic and full reports on web performance are provided by the FIDE Press Officer to both GSC and the Organizer.

4. 16. 3. The Organizer co-operates with the FIDE Press Officer concerning the accreditation and hospitality for journalists and media and the facilities available at the Press Centre.

4. 16. 4. The FIDE Press Officer is a member of the panel at Press Conferences conducted during the event.

4. 17. Photography and Television

4. 17. 1. Only photographers and camera crew expressly authorized by the FIDE Press Officer may work in the playing venue.

4. 17. 2. Flash may be used only during the first five (5) minutes of standard games, the first three (3) minutes of rapid games and the first minute of blitz games.

4. 17. 3. Television cameras must be unobtrusive and may only be used if the Chief Arbiter deems their use to be unobtrusive.

4. 18. Ceremonies

4. 18. 1. The Opening Ceremony takes place the day prior to the first round. The program of the Opening Ceremony is approved by GSC. Cultural program and speeches totalling up to 60 minutes are usually welcome. The FIDE Anthem and the Anthem of the hosting country are played.

4. 18. 2. The Closing Ceremony takes place not later than one day after the end of the event. FIDE trophy for the winner and FIDE medals – gold, silver, bronze are provided by the Organizer. The trophy and the medals are approved by GSC. The FIDE Anthem, the Anthem of the winner's country and the Anthem of the hosting country are played.

5. Selection of the Organizer

5. 1. Any Federation member of FIDE or any sponsor supported by a national federation may apply for organization of CT.

5. 2. FIDE shall open a bidding procedure for CT.

5. 3. Each bid should contain the following:

a) Proposed exact place and dates of the event.

b) Proposed tournament venue.

c) Proposed prize fund – minimum five hundred thousand (500,000) euros net of any applicable local taxes.

d) Contribution to FIDE: minimum 15% of the prize fund, not less than one hundred (100,000) euros net of any applicable local taxes.

- e) Contribution to the FIDE Development Fund: minimum 10% of the prize fund, not less than fifty thousand (50,000) euros net of any applicable local taxes.
- f) Commitment to cover all financial obligations to FIDE, including all the stipends.
- g) Commitment to cover all organizational costs in accordance with these Regulations.
- h) Commitment to submit before February 1st 2020 a legal opinion on the taxation of the CT's prizes in the organizing country.
- i) Category of official hotel (minimum 4 stars) and its name, with special room rates including meals.
- j) Invitation for at least two (2) members of GSC to inspect the proposed venue and examine the other conditions, with all travel and hotel expenses paid by the applicant from the non-refundable fee. (see 5.4.).
- k) Applicant's name, signatures and authentication
- l) Letters of support from a national federation and relevant local authorities.

5. 4. Each applicant pays a non-refundable fee of three thousand (3,000) euros.

5. 5. The FIDE's choice of the Organizer is based on many factors aiming for the best of chess. The proposed prize fund is not the only criterium.

5. 6. Upon FIDE's selection of the Organizer of the event, a contract is to be signed between FIDE and the Organizer regarding all financial and commercial aspects of the event. The Organizer is required to present all necessary bank guaranties for the whole amount of the prize fund and all expenses related to the event.

5. 7. GSC advises and helps the Organizer on protocol, budget, infrastructure, media, commentary and other technical issues.

6. Financial issues

6. 1. Before the end of the event, FIDE is reimbursed for its direct expenses incurred in the organization of CT. This is a fixed sum agreed in the contract between the Organizer and FIDE. This sum includes pre-expenses (inspections), stipends, traveling expenses for the Principals and other expenses mentioned in the contract.

6. 2. Stipends

The stipends to be paid to the Principals by the Organizer are (in euros):

Chief Arbiter:	6,000
Deputy Chief Arbiter:	4,500
Supervisor-Chairman of the Appeals Committee	5,000
Two members of the Appeals Committee	3,000 each
FIDE Press Officer:	4,500
Member of the FIDE Medical Commission:	2,000
TOTAL:	28,000

6. 3. Travel Expenses of the FIDE Principals

The FIDE President has the right to business class travel by air, sea or rail, at the Organizer's expense. If other travel conditions are not specified in the contract signed by the Organizer and FIDE, all other Principals are compensated by the Organizer for their travel expenses up to a maximum of one thousand (1,000) euros if travelling from the same continent, up to one thousand three hundred (1,300) euros if travelling from another continent.

6. 4. Accommodation of the FIDE Principals

Accommodation with full board in a suite in the official (at least 4-stars) hotel is offered by the Organizer for the FIDE President. Accommodation with full board in a standard room in the same hotel is offered by the Organizer for each Principal. Extra expenses are covered by the Organizer only for the FIDE President.

6. 5. Local transportation

Transfer from and to the airport is provided by the Organizer, if necessary. For the FIDE President, a chauffeur-driven car, for the other Principals, a number of cars is made available; their use depends on the position of the hotels, playing hall and media center. Alternatively, a daily allowance in local currency may be provided, the amount is to be agreed between the Organizer and GSC. Local transport is also provided for the players to official functions, if necessary.

6. 6. Personnel and assistant arbiters

The Organizer provides sufficient personnel to assist in the playing hall, press room, VIP room, and at Ceremonies according to the agreement made with GSC.

6. 7. Fair-play measures

The measures are to be approved by GSC. The Organizer covers all the related costs up to ten thousand (10,000) euros.

7. Commercial issues

7. 1. FIDE, or its appointed commercial agency, retains all commercial and media rights of CT, including internet. The right as described here can be granted by FIDE to the Organizer.

7. 2. The radio and television rights, including photo, video and film rights, belong to FIDE or its appointed agency. The right as described here can be granted by FIDE to the Organizer.

7. 3. FIDE has the exclusive rights for live games transmission on Internet. FIDE provides to the Organizer the signal for online game display in the different function rooms as agreed between the parties. This right as described here can be granted by FIDE to the Organizer.

7. 4. FIDE has the right to enter into advertisement agreements either with the Organizer or Sponsors of the event requiring players to wear attire with the branding of sponsors. Players shall not wear, use or display any apparel, footwear, accessory or other item, including but not limited to any piece of attire or any article that is of an accessory nature (*e.g.* bag, eyewear, arm bands, gloves, socks, charms, beverage bottles etc.), bearing an identification of or advertising or otherwise promoting the players' sponsors, without prior written permission by FIDE or its commercial agency.

7. 5. The income provided by CT through admission charges goes to the Organizer.

7. 6. The Organizer draws up a budget as detailed as possible. This is subject to approval of GSC.

7. 7. No proposed sponsor is in conflict with the Regulations of the International Olympic Committee.

7. 8. The FIDE logo and the head of the corporate logo are displayed below:



The FIDE logo is displayed in a dark blue colour on a white background. The text describing any event must not be larger than twice the size of the word FIDE reproduced in the logo.

7. 9. The event title of the tournament is represented below. The corporate logo should include the above on top and the text in any kind of printed or electronic media must not be larger than twice the size of the word FIDE reproduced in the logo.



CANDIDATES TOURNAMENT 2020

ANNEX 1

The FIDE Laws of Chess, as valid since 1 January 2018 and published on the FIDE website:

<http://www.fide.com/component/handbook/?id=208&view=article>

ANNEX 2

Tie-break play-off

1. All play-off games are played according to the following:

a) The players do not need to record the moves.

b) The player who has the move may stop the clock and consult the Arbiter's scoresheet if he thinks that his next move can produce the threefold repetition of position or accomplish the "50 moves" rule. Then he can write the intended move on the scoresheet and claim a draw according to the Laws of Chess (FIDE Handbook, E.01, Articles 9.2. and 9.3.). If the claim is found to be correct, the game is immediately ended as a draw. If the claim is found to be incorrect, the Arbiter adds two (2) minutes to the opponent's remaining time and the game continues with the intended move. A maximum of two (2) incorrect claims for a draw can be made by each player. If a player makes a third (3rd) incorrect claim, the arbiter declares the game lost for this player.

c) If a game has ended by resignation, checkmate, time loss, stalemate, triple repetition or any other of the ways described in the FIDE Handbook, E01, Article 5, no claim for irregularities are accepted (irregularities include clock settings and all other described in the FIDE Handbook, E01, Article 7).

2. After a drawing of colours, four (4) games are played with time control of 25 minutes for each player + 10 seconds increment per move, starting from move 1.

3. If the score is level after the games in Article 2, then after a new drawing of colours, two (2) games are played with time control of 5 minutes for each player + 3 seconds increment per move, starting from move 1. If there is still a tie, this process is repeated for a maximum of two (2) more times.

4. If the score is still level after the games in Article 3, then one (1) sudden death game is played. The player who wins the drawing of lots may choose the colour. The player with the white pieces receives 5 minutes; the player with the black pieces receives 4 minutes whereupon; after move 60, both players receive an increment of 2 seconds per move starting from move 61. In case of a draw the player with the black pieces is declared the winner.

5. There is a pause of 10 minutes between all tie-break games, unless the Chief Arbiter decides otherwise.