

Regulations for the FIDE “Open” World Blitz Championship 2016 & FIDE “Open” World Rapid Championship 2016



1. Frequency

The FIDE World Blitz & Rapid Championships shall be organized annually under the aegis of FIDE by a federation entrusted with the task by the General Assembly or the Presidential Board at least one year in advance. All rights for the organization of the World Blitz & Rapid Championships and the title of the World Blitz Champion or World Rapid Champion belong to FIDE.

2. Format

The events will be both Swiss pairings tournaments and will be held over two days for Blitz and three days for Rapid. The Blitz will have twenty one (21) rounds, with a single game for each round, Swiss event. The Rapid will be fifteen (15) rounds, with a single game for each round, Swiss event.

3. Participation

3.1 All players rated at least 2500 in any of the FIDE rating lists (Standard, Blitz or Rapid) from January 2016 to October 2016 are eligible to participate in the FIDE World Blitz & Rapid Championships.

3.2 The FIDE World Blitz & Rapid Championships are open to all the National Champions representing their National Chess Federation regardless of their title or rating.

3.3 Applications have to be sent by the national federations only.

4. Organisation

At least two months before the tournament, the organising federation will send an invitation to all affiliated federations. The invitations shall be approved by the FIDE President. Copies of the invitation shall also be sent to the FIDE President, to the Continental Presidents and to the Zone Presidents.

5. Time Control

5.1 In the Blitz Championship, each player will have 3 minutes + 2 seconds additional time per move, starting from move 1.

5.2 In the Rapid Championship, each player will have 15 minutes + 10 seconds additional time per move, starting from move 1.

6. Tournament Conditions

6.1 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.

6.2 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.

6.3 Players are required to attend the Players' Meeting on the day of the Opening Ceremony at a time to be decided by the Chief Arbiter and the Organisers. If necessary, the Chief Arbiter may call other Players' Meetings.

- 6.4 The draw for Colours and Pairings will be made in the first Players' Meeting for two events.
- 6.5 Players are requested to note the requirements of FIDE Regulations C.01 (Article 8.1) in respect of their dignified appearance at all times during the matches. FIDE may provide a dress code for the event and players and officials will comply with the dress code.
- 6.6 If any 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. If such a withdrawal is not justified, he will forfeit his right to the prize for the tournament as well as incur further sanctions by FIDE
- 6.7 A protest against any decision must be submitted in writing to the Chairman of the Appeals Committee, immediately after the game. The decision of the Appeals Committee is final.
- 6.8 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 Arbiter.
- 6.9 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.
- 6.10 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.
- 6.11 During the game, a player may talk only to an arbiter or communicate with a steward.
- 6.12 Organizers shall provide in sufficiency, free of charge, coffee, tea and soft drinks for the players and principals. It is advisable that the same offer shall apply for the press members.
- 6.13 During play either the Chief Arbiter or the Deputy Chief Arbiter must be present in the playing area.
- 6.14 Tournaments will be played according to the rules of the inadequate supervision of the Rapid play Laws of Chess (FIDE Handbook, E.I.01B Appendices, art. 1 to 4).
- 6.15 The Chief Arbiter may, in consultation with the Chairman of Appeals Committee, the players 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.
- 6.16 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. 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.
- 6.17 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.

7. Tournament Schedule

| Date | | Number of rounds | Time of start of games | Other comments |
|---------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------------|--|
| 25 Dec 2016 | Arrival | | | |
| 25 Dec 2016 | Opening Ceremony | | 19:30 | May be subject to change depending on Organisers |
| 26 Dec 2016 - day 1 | Rapid | 1-5 | 15:00 | |
| 27 Dec 2016 - day 2 | Rapid | 6-10 | 15:00 | |
| 28 Dec 2016 - day 3 | Rapid | 11-15 | 15:00 | |
| 29 Dec 2016 - day 1 | Blitz | 1-11 | 15:00 | |
| 30 Dec 2016 - day 2 | Blitz | 12-21 | 15:00 | |
| 30 Dec 2016 | Closing Ceremony | | 19:30 | May be subject to change depending on Organisers |
| 31 Dec 2016 | Departure | | | |

8. Principals

8.1 The FIDE President after consultation with the WCOC shall appoint the following FIDE Principals. These are:

- FIDE Representative who will be Chairman of Appeals Committee;
- Two Members of Appeals Committee
- Chief Arbiter and his Deputies (2) and Arbiters (15);
- FIDE Press Officer;
- Global Chess Representative

8.2 The organizing federation shall appoint an adequate number of Assistant Arbiters (one Arbiter per 10 matches) to ensure that all games are reasonably supervised.

8.3 All principals will be hosted on a full board basis in at least a four star hotel by the organisers for the duration of their stay.

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 the sponsors' brandings.

9.3 After the WCOC agrees 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 acceptable.

10. Interviews, media and PR functions

10.1 All players have to cooperate reasonably with the media. The players are required to make themselves available for short interviews immediately after each game. In general, players shall be available for the daily press conference. 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. All winners and medalists are obliged to attend the final press conference of the next day after the event has ended and to provide an exclusive interview for the FIDE website, if requested by the FIDE Press Officer.

10.2 Players violating article 10.1 will be subjected to the penalties mentioned in article 15.1, applied by the FIDE Press Officer.

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 Only photographers and camera crews expressly authorized by the Organising Committee may work in the playing venue.

11. Financial Regulations and Prizes

11.1 The entry fee of 100 USD shall be paid to the Organiser. All players must register by not later than 30 October 2016, following which entry fee will be 200 USD.

11.2 The organising federation shall award a gold medal to each of the winners of the title World Blitz Champion and World Rapid Champion, silver medals to the players who respectively took the second place and bronze medal to the player who took the third place in the Blitz and Rapid events.

11.3 The organising federation shall award money prizes for the Championships, net of any local taxes, as follows:

| Blitz Prize Fund | US Dollars | Rapid Prize Fund | US Dollars |
|---|-------------------|---|-------------------|
| Prize Fund | 200,000 | Prize Fund | 200,000 |
| 1st Place | 40,000 | 1st Place | 40,000 |
| 2nd Place | 32,000 | 2nd Place | 32,000 |
| 3rd Place | 26,000 | 3rd Place | 26,000 |
| 4th Place | 21,000 | 4th Place | 21,000 |
| 5th Place | 17,000 | 5th Place | 17,000 |
| 6th Place | 13,000 | 6th Place | 13,000 |
| 7th Place | 11,000 | 7th Place | 11,000 |
| 8th Place | 9,000 | 8th Place | 9,000 |
| 9th Place | 7,000 | 9th Place | 7,000 |
| 10th Place | 4,000 | 10th Place | 4,000 |
| 11th-16th place (2,000 \$ each) | 12,000 | 11th-16th place (2,000 \$ each) | 12,000 |
| 17th-24 th place (1,000 \$ each) | 8,000 | 17th-24 th place (1,000 \$ each) | 8,000 |

All prize money shall be transferred to the FIDE bank account at least one month prior to the start of the event.

- 11.4 The tie break system (for medals only) is as follows:
1. ARCO (Average Rating of Opponents Cut 1)
 2. Buchholz Cut 1
 3. Direct Encounter
 4. Greater number of games with Black (unplayed games counted as White)
- 11.5 All monetary prizes are shared equally, in cases of any tied position/s.
- 11.6. One month before the start of the Blitz and Rapid tournaments, the organiser shall transfer an additional 20% (80,000 USD) to FIDE, over and above the prize fund, to the FIDE bank account.
- 11.7 The total fees for the World Blitz and Rapid Championships for the principals are as follows: Chief Arbiter (3,500 USD), Deputy Chief Arbiter (3,000 USD), Chairman of Appeals Committee (3,500 USD), Members of Appeals Committee (2,500 USD) and Press Officer (2,500 USD).
- 11.8 Accommodation
- a) Accommodation with full board is offered by the organisers for players with a rating of 2750 and over in the FIDE rating lists of blitz or rapid chess or 2700 and over in the FIDE rating lists for standard time controls, at 1st August 2016 or 1st September 2016.
 - b) Accommodation with full board is also to be offered by the organisers also for the 6 FIDE Principals and the Global Chess representative. The 6 FIDE Principals and the Global Chess representative will also be compensated by the organisers for their travel expenses up to a maximum of 1,100 USD if travelling from the same continent or Europe and up to 1,500 USD if travelling from African or American continent for economy class tickets. Any travelling costs for accompanying persons will be the Players' or Principals' responsibility.
- 11.9 All players will be responsible for their travel expenses. A Player will also be responsible for his/her accommodation costs if his/her rating does not meet the minimum requirement of rating, as described in article 11.8 above. The organiser will offer accommodation alternatives through their website.
- 11.10 The Organiser shall pay additional commercial costs of 15,000 USD to Global Chess MFZE for assistance in the setup, administration, organisation and management of the Blitz & Rapid Championships. The amount will be transferred directly to FIDE on behalf of Global Chess MFZE.

12. Opening & Closing Ceremony

- 12.1 A short Opening Ceremony shall take place and all participants are required to take part.
- 12.2 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.

13. Appeals Committee

- 13.1 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.
- 13.2 All protests must be submitted in writing to the Appeals Committee not more than 15 minutes after the relevant playing session, or the particular infringement complained against.
- 13.3 The Committee may decide on the following matters within a reasonable time frame:
- a) an appeal against a decision by an arbiter,
 - b) a protest against a player's behaviour,

- c) a complaint alleging false interpretation of the regulations,
- d) a request for the interpretation of specific regulations,
- e) a protest or complaint against any participant, or
- f) all other matters which the Committee considers important.

13.4 If possible, the Committee shall reach a decision not more than 15 minutes after the submission of a protest. The appeals process shall include written representations and a written decision. The Committee shall endeavour to find binding solutions that are within the true spirit of the FIDE motto, Gens Una Sumus.

13.5 Each protest must be accompanied by a deposit fee of USD 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.

13.6 The decision of the Appeals Committee arising from any dispute in respect of these regulations shall be final.

14. Payment of Prize Money and Stipends

14.1 The prize fund and stipends shall be paid by direct bank transfer in US Dollars from FIDE's bankers UBS, Lausanne.

14.2 FIDE 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.

14.3 At any time in the course of the application of these regulations, any grounds that are not covered or any unforeseen event shall be referred to the President of FIDE for final decision.

15. Penalties

15.1 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 USD 1,000 for any instance of breach.

15.2 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 USD 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.

15.3 Should a player withdraw from the tournament without proper justification to the WCOC, then an automatic penalty of USD 5,000 will be imposed by FIDE on the player and the player may be excluded from the next World Blitz or Rapid Championships.