

Regulations for the 2016-2017 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 2016-2018.

1.2. For the purpose of creating the regulations and communicating with the players, the FIDE General Assembly has approved the proposal of the FIDE President to nominate 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 2016-2017

The Grand Prix Series will consist of four tournaments to be held over two years (2016-2017). 24 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 18 players with a schedule of a nine (9) round swiss system. 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 first half of 2018.

3. Qualifiers for the Grand Prix 2016-2017

The players who qualify for selection to play in the Grand Prix Series will be chosen on the following prioritised basis until 24 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 stage of the FIDE World Cup 2015 (**4 players**).

3.3 FIDE Rating: Based on an average calculation to two decimal places of the average from all published FIDE ratings of classical (standard) chess from 1 June 2015 to 1 May 2016 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 June 2015 to 1 May 2016 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 (standard) chess from 1 June 2015 to 1 May 2016 (**8 players**).

3.4 ACP Tour: The one (1) highest-placed participant of the most recently completed ACP Tour, who has not qualified with the previous criteria **(1 player)**.

3.5 Organiser Nominees: Nine (9) players nominated by AGON with a published rating in classical (standard) chess of at least 2700, in at least one FIDE rating list of 2016 **(9 players)**.

3.6 Replacements. Any replacement for the initial selection of qualified players (or for any player who qualifies more than once from articles 3.1, 3.2, 3.3 and 3.4) will be made on the basis of Article 3.3 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. 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 Each tournament shall consist of 18 players playing a swiss system of 9 rounds. The tournament will be played according to the FIDE Swiss Dutch System, as described in section C.04.3.1 of the FIDE Handbook. For pairings of every round, the Swiss Manager pairing program shall be used.

4.7 Time control: 100 minutes for the first 40 moves, 50 minutes for the next 20 moves and then 15 minutes for the rest of the game plus an additional 30 seconds per move starting from move 1.

4.8 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.

4.9 During the game, a player may talk only to an arbiter or communicate with a steward, or with his opponent as permitted by the Laws of Chess.

5. Tournament Schedule

5.1 Schedule of each tournament:

1st day:	Arrivals & Media Day / Opening Ceremony
2nd day:	Round 1
3rd day:	Round 2
4th day:	Round 3
5th day:	Round 4
6th day:	Round 5
7th day:	Free Day
8th day:	Round 6
9th day:	Round 7
10th day:	Round 8
11th day:	Round 9 & Closing Ceremony
12th day:	Departures

5.2 Upon reasonable request of the organisers, the FIDE President may vary the schedule following a written proposal of WCOC.

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 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 3.3. 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 current 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 Prize Fund of the Grand Prix for the four tournaments in aggregate is 520,000 euros.

7.2 The Prize Fund will be split equally to each tournament. The prize money which will be paid by AGON for each event is 130,000 euros, net and free of any local taxes. The prize money for each Tournament will be split as follows:

PLACING	PRIZE MONEY (€)	GRAND-PRIX RANKING POINTS
1 ST	20,000	120+50
2 ND	15,000	110+30
3 RD	12,000	100+10
4 TH	11,000	90
5 TH	10,000	80
6 TH	9,000	70
7 TH	8,000	60
8 TH	7,000	50
9 TH	6,000	40
10 TH	5,000	30
11 TH	4,250	20
12 TH	4,000	10
13 TH	3,750	8
14 TH	3,500	6
15 TH	3,250	4
16 TH	3,000	3
17 TH	2,750	2
18 TH	2,500	1

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 below.

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:

- a.) No. of actual game result points scored in the three tournaments;
- b.) Number of games played with black in the three tournaments;
- c.) Number of wins in all three tournaments;
- d.) Number of wins with black in all three tournaments;
- e.) 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. 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's commercial agency.

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 Organiser.

8.5 The Organisers are responsible for paying the following minimum organizing costs for each event:

- Travelling and food expenses for 18 players plus 4 FIDE Principals and 2 AGON representatives up to a maximum of 1,200 Euros per person travelling from the same continent and 1,500 Euros for person travelling from other continents. Any travelling costs for accompanying persons will be the players' responsibility.
- Hotel cost (including breakfast) for the above 24 people in double rooms with single occupancy, for 13 days/12 nights in hotels classified not less than Four Star. For clarification, each person will have a double room, and for the FIDE President, if he attends, a suite.
- Stipends for 4 FIDE Principals (Chairman of Appeals Committee x 3,000 euros, Chief Arbiter x 3,000 euros, Deputy Arbiter 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 26,000 Euros for each event, over and above the individual event prize fund of 130,000 Euros.

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

- Tournament hall and organisation 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;
- Anti-cheating provisions and equipment as instructed by FIDE;
- Inspection visits by FIDE and AGON 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 or the player's contract, including a deduction of their prize fund per violation as per articles 18.1, 18.2 and 18.3.

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, media days and both opening & 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 or the FIDE Deputy President shall be appointed as a FIDE Principal for the purposes of the Grand Prix.

12.2 The Principals are:

- a) Chairman of the Appeals Committee proposed by WCOC and approved by the FIDE President;
- b) 2 members of the Appeals Committee appointed among the players;
- c) Arbiters;
- d) Press Officer;
- e) Representative of FIDE Medical Commission;
- f) 2 WCOC members;

12.3 All principals will be hosted by the organisers as per article 8.5 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 Arbiter.

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:

- 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 of each tournament 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 30 minutes 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 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.