



CHESS FOR FREEDOM

The 5th FIDE INTERCONTINENTAL ON-LINE CHESS CHAMPIONSHIP FOR PRISONERS

14 - 16 October, 2025

REGULATIONS

1. SCOPE

- 1.1.** The goal of the FIDE Intercontinental On-line Chess Championship for Prisoners is to popularize chess as an efficient tool for re-integration of inmates.
- 1.2.** The Governing Body of the FIDE Intercontinental Online Chess Championship for Prisoners is the International Chess Federation (FIDE).
- 1.3.** In this document, the word “prison” means any correctional facility (jail or prison) without any specification by age and gender of prisoners.
- 1.4.** The FIDE Intercontinental Online Chess Championship for Prisoners is organized by FIDE and the Cook County Sheriff’s Organization (Chicago, IL, USA)
- 1.5.** The tournament Organizer: Mikhail Korenman, Cook County Sheriff’s Office, FIDE IO
Chief Tournament Arbiter: Nebojsa Baralic, FIDE IA
- 1.6.** The body responsible for adopting and changing these Regulations is the FIDE Management board, upon recommendation of FIDE Social Commission and the Tournament Organizer.

2. EVENTS

The FIDE Intercontinental Online Chess Championship for Prisoners consist of one team event.

- 2.1. Dates:** October 14-16, 2025
- 2.2. Eligibility:** open for teams representing a correctional facility as referred to in article 1.3. of this document.



2.2.a. Each country can have up to three (s) teams for the event. One team shall be represented from a male correctional facility; one team from female correctional facility and have all four female team players; and one team representing juvenoid correctional facility (Under age of 20).

An extra team(s) will be granted to participate from countries that run national championships among the prisoners. There should not be more than 1 team represented the same correctional facility.

2.2.b. The team consists of four (4) players with unlimited number of substitutes. It is only individuals in custody (no staff) who are eligible to represent the team as players. The team can be composed of players representing several institutions in one country. Web cameras will be required in all rooms for such combined team

2.2.c. All names of the participants shall be anonymous and can only be disclosed for non-competing purpose (such as media report) if the legal rules of the respective country allow disclosing the names of individuals in custody. FIDE and/or tournament organizers (Cook County Sheriff's office, Chicago, IL, USA) have no responsibilities of disclosing the names of participants.

2.3. Format:

2.3.a. The main tournament will be a Round-robin team tournament; 7 rounds.

2.3.b. All rounds shall be played in one day, October 14, 2025.

2.3.c. All teams will be divided into the groups of 8 teams per group. The group drawing will be made no later than September 14, 2025. The teams will be divided into groups according to their time zones.

2.3.d. There shall be no more than 8 hours' time difference between the countries in each group.

2.3.e. In case that one of the groups may have less than 8 teams, tournament organizers may open the field for additional team (if available) from participating countries. No two teams from the same country shall be placed in the same group.

2.3.f. The two top teams from each group will advance into the Championship Round that will occur at the second day of the event, October 15, 2025.

2.3.g. The Championship Round will be a round-robin team tournament. The format of the Championship round may be modified depending on the total number of the teams registered and the best option to accommodate the qualified teams in reasonable playing time. A separate format will be arranged for Female/Juvenile Championships. Two winning teams from each group of the Championship round will compete on October 16th for the



Championship title match and two teams will compete for the 3rd place match in each category – male, female, and youth competitions.

2.3.h. Extended Sonneborn-Bereger tie brake system for team tournaments will be used for the event.

2.3.i. Depending on the number of teams, the organizer has the right to change the competition system and the number of teams in the group.

2.4. Time control: Game in 10 min + 5 sec per move starting from move 1.

2.5. Pairings:

2.5.a. The pairings shall be made available a week prior of the event on October 7, 2025

2.5.b. All players from all teams shall be considered unrated.

2.6. Schedule: TBD

2.7. Awards: The winning team shall be announced the Winner of the FIDE Intercontinental Online Chess Championship. Special certificates should be awarded to the members of the winning team.

2.8. Team standings: the score from all players shall be counted for team standings.

The final team standing shall be determined by (in order of priority):

2.8.a. by the sum of match points (2 for Wins, 1 for Draws, 0 for Losses)

2.8.b. by the sum of individual points of all team's members;

2.8.c. results of teams in same point group according to Match Points

2.8.d. Extended Sonnerborn-Berger for teams

2.9. Registration

2.9.a. Each correction facility (or Government/Ministry/National Chess Federation officials) shall complete the on-line registration form <http://docs.google.com/forms/d/1mftj2L6h-UXSW1JPW4hIEAKI4RER5dWwVCGHOprTwc/edit> and submit an email confirmation of team participation to the Tournament Organizer (mikhail.korenman@ccsheriff.org).

2.9.b. The participating countries can submit additional team(s) for the waiting list in a case that tournament organizers may look for additional teams to complete the 8-teams field for each group.

2.9.c. The registration deadline is September 14, 2025.

2.9.d. There is no entry fee.



3. TECHNICAL ISSUES

3.1. Social Commission, in consultation with the Tournament Organizer, shall nominate the Chief Arbiter, the Deputy Chief Arbiter, Arbiters and Fair-Play Officer.

3.2. The technical meeting for the event shall take place on a week of September 15th 2025 via Zoom conference call. The representatives from all participated teams are obligated to attend the meeting. The teams will not be paired for the tournament if the official representative will not attend the technical meeting or an individual consultation in special occasions.

3.3. The event is not rated by FIDE or any individual chess federations.

4. CONNECTION TO THE PLAYING ZONE

4.1. Playing zone for the event is www.chess.com

4.2. Each participating team is responsible to have a secure site with 4 computers connected to the Internet.

4.3. Tournament Organizer will work with chess.com on providing 4 (four) free accounts for each team. Only those accounts shall be used for playing at the tournament.

4.4. Tournament Organizer will work with chess.com to provide all accounts without any social interactions (chats etc. are prohibited for accounts) and no connections to any other activities on chess.com except playing the event tournament.

4.5. During a game, if player disconnects from the playing zone, the game clock shall continue running.

4.6. If the player can reconnect to the game before remaining time elapsed, the game can be continued.

4.7. If the player cannot reconnect to the game before the time elapses, then the player shall lose the game. However, the game is drawn if the position is such that the opponent cannot checkmate the player's King by any possible legal moves.

4.8. There are no video connections required for each individual player, but each site should require one video connection covering the playing site through Zoom communication. Each team shall provide to Tournament Organizer a description how the video of the playing zone will be organized in compliance with their security measures.



5. FAIR PLAY MEASURES

- 5.1.** It is every teams' responsibility to have at least one web camera covering the playing zone.
- 5.2.** There shall be no web cameras facing any of the team players from the front unless the prison officials allow such representation of the players.
- 5.3.** All teams shall only use the accounts provided from the tournament organizers with the support from chess.com. It is strongly recommended that all log ins to the chess.com accounts be done by the correctional institutions staff and not by the participants. All accounts will be checked on security purpose and have no ways of any social interactions among the players.
- 5.4.** All the teams that will qualify for the second championship round will be checked by computer analysis on fair play.
- 5.5.** It is each correctional facilities responsibility to eliminate any access to the general Internet use by the participants.
- 5.6.** There will be no individual team player with access to Zoom communication.
- 5.7.** All communications with the teams will be provided through the designated representatives from the correctional institutions or assistant tournament arbiters on site.
- 5.8.** FIDE will appoint the Fair Play Committee for the event, with Fair Play Officer and representative from chess.com
- 5.9.** Any visible violation of the cheating rules during the games shall be submitted to the Chief Tournament Arbiter and Fair-Play Committee for their review.
- 5.10** Any confirmed violation of the Fair Play (cheating) will lead to eliminated of the total tournament points for the entire tournament by the individul who were committed the violation. Team points will be eliminated for the matches where the violation were confirmed. If the violation were confirmed for more than one round, the team will be eliminated from the event and the organizing committee and FIDE office will inform all participated teams on violations, the National chess federation and the correctional institution will be notified, and the team will not be able to participate in a future Chess for Freedom events.

6. APPEALS COMMITTEE

- 6.1.** Social Commission, in consultation with Tournament Organizer, shall appoint the Chairman, the two other members of the Appeals Committee from different Federations.
- 6.2.** The Appeals Committee is entitled to make decisions on all disputes but fair play issues.
- 6.3.** All appeals and protests shall be submitted by the team representatives in writing to the Appeal Committee no later than 15 min after the completion of the relevant game or after the alleged infringement occurred.
- 6.4.** The Appeals Committee shall endeavor to make a decision as quickly as possible.



APPENDIX 1. Technical requirements.

Access to the Internet	Internet access is needed inside correctional facilities. Can be wired or Wi-Fi. No limitation on a specific place where the computers shall be located. Prison/jail staff is required to be present following local facilities rules and regulations.
Number of computers	4 computers for prisoners to use for matches. 1 computer for staff communication.
Number of cameras	NO cameras required at the playing site. If available the cameras should not cover the faces of the players. It is encouraged (but not required) to have one camera on staff computer for during the tournament communications. Cameras ARE REQUIRED on the 2 nd and 3 rd day.
Requirements for the computer software	There will be NO software that will be required to install. www.chess.com will be a platform for the event. Each team will receive 4 accounts that shall be used by players. ALL accounts will have security check and ALL communications besides playing the games will be turned off.
General requirements for the premises where the team will play	There are no specific regulations to the playing site. It is for each team determination. The site should be secured with local correctional facilities staff.
Internet disconnection	During a game, if player disconnects from the playing zone, the game clock shall continue running. If the player can reconnect to the game before remaining time elapsed, the game can be continued. If the player cannot reconnect to the game before the time is elapsed, then the player shall lose the game, However, the game is drawn if the position is such that the opponent can not checkmate the player's King by any possible legal moves.
Communication with the teams	All communication with the teams shall be done through one designated person located at the local correctional facility. No direct communication with players.
Contacts	Mikhail Korenman, Chess Program Coordinator at Cook County Department of Corrections, FIDE International Chess Organizer and Council Member of FIDE Social Commission Email Mikhail.korenman@ccsheriff.org WhatsApp Tel.: +1-785-906-0402