



Regulations for the FIDE Social Chess Day Online Tournament on the 20th of July 2025

1. General

1.1. Governing Body of the FIDE Social Chess Day Online Tournament (hereinafter referred to as the Event) is the International Chess Federation (FIDE) with the support of Lichess.org platform (hereinafter referred to as "Lichess" or "hosting internet platform" ("HIP")).

1.2. FIDE Social Commission (hereinafter referred to as SC) is in charge of preparing the regulations, communicating with the HIP and prize winners.

1.3. There will be no entry fees for this event.

1.4. SC and Lichess reserve the right to amend the below based on participation.

1.5. Lichess Arena pairings, tiebreak systems, fair play and any other relevant Lichess server rules or terms of service will be in effect at all times.

1.6. To ensure maximum fairness to as many players as possible, duplicate entries are not allowed. This includes playing from alternate or multiple accounts.

1.7. By participating, players acknowledge that from any point, Lichess and SC reserve the right to request proof of a player's identity. Should the player refuse to verify their identity, the player accepts that Lichess and SC reserve the right to remove them from the Event.

1.8. Participants will not be able to play under flags of Russia or Belarus on their Lichess profile and shall use a neutral flag (e.g., the Lichess, United Nations or Earth flag, available at the end of the flag list) or set their profile with no flag (the blank spot at the top of the list). Flags can be changed [via the user profile page](#).

2. Concept

2.1. The goal of the Event is to encourage global chess community to celebrate International Chess Day and honor the timeless game that unites people of different age and social groups with no borders or limits. In 2025, as part of the FIDE Year of Social Chess, SC aims to spotlight the remarkable individuals and organisations using chess as a tool for social good. Through inclusive initiatives that foster well-being, connection, and opportunity, Social Chess Day will showcase how the game continues to make a meaningful impact in communities around the world.

2.2. The Event is the 24-hour online global inclusive tournament held on Lichess.org platform.

2.3. 2.The Event is open for everybody, so long as they have a registered account with Lichess that has not violated the Lichess Terms of Service and is not otherwise restricted from participating in arena tournaments.

3. Format & Gameplay

3.1. The tournament will use the Lichess Arena format, running continuously for 24 hours starting on 20th July at 00:00 CEST (Central European Summer Time). Players can join at any point and play as many games as they like during this period.

3.2. Time control: blitz 5'+3".

3.3. Prize eligibility is limited to participants who complete at least five (5) games during the event. The list of eligible users will be compiled by Lichess after the event.

3.4. Games will be played online, from registered Lichess accounts, on lichess.org and are therefore subject to the usual server rules .

3.5. Players are responsible for all their actions, such as draw offers, resignations, etc.

3.6. Players are responsible for their own internet connection. If a player disconnects during a game, the disconnected player's time will continue to run until they either reconnect and make a move received by the server, their time runs out, or the opposing player claims a win or draw.

4. Prize Categories

4.1. The following prizes will be awarded among eligible participants:

5 winners – will receive a voucher to attend the Opening Ceremony and the first round of the World Chess Olympiad 2026 in Samarkand, Uzbekistan (including two nights of hotel accommodation).

At least 10 winners – will receive a gift voucher for FIDE merchandise valued at €100, redeemable at the official online shop: <https://shop.fide.com>

At least 20 winners – will receive a copy of the exclusive chess photography book “Chess Players.”

At least 40 winners – will receive access to a group or individual online masterclass with a top Grandmaster (date and GM to be announced).

20 winners – will be invited to take part in a top-GM online simul on Lichess (details to be confirmed).

4.2. The organizer reserves the right to award additional prizes or increase the number of winners at their discretion.[1]

4.3. Eligibility and Selection Process:

4.3.1. To be eligible for prize selection, participants must:

- Be registered Lichess users, with an account in good standing
- Play at least five (5) games during the 24-hour event.

4.3.2. Only one prize per Lichess account is allowed. If a participant is selected more than once, they will receive the highest-tier prize for which they were drawn, and the other prize(s) will be reallocated.

4.3.3. Ineligible participants include:

- Members of the Lichess team, the FIDE Social Commission (SC), or FIDE staff;
- Their immediate relatives (spouse, children, parents, siblings);
- These individuals may participate for enjoyment but will not be eligible for prizes, which will instead be reassigned to the next drawn eligible participant.

4.3.4. Following the event, Lichess will compile a list of all eligible participants and share it with the FIDE Social Commission.

4.3.5. The FIDE SC will use a random selection method (e.g., via Excel randomization) to draw up to 50 prize winners from the eligible list. Alternate winners will also be selected in case of forfeiture, non-response, or disqualification.

4.4. Procedure of prize distribution:

4.4.1. Once the list of potential prize winners has been randomly selected, Lichess will conduct a fair play review within 72 hours to verify eligibility. This review will be coordinated with FIDE and based on standard Lichess detection systems and policies.

4.4.2. After the fair play check is completed, all verified prize winners will be contacted via their Lichess.org account, using the Lichess messaging system. Participants are responsible for ensuring their Lichess inbox is accessible and monitored.

4.4.3. Digital prizes (such as vouchers or access to online events) will be sent electronically via Lichess messages from the official FIDE Lichess account, with full instructions for redemption.

4.4.4. Physical prizes (such as books) will be delivered via postal service. Winners will be asked to provide a valid mailing address when contacted.

4.4.5. If a winner does not respond to the initial message within two weeks, a follow-up message will be sent. Failure to respond within four weeks of the follow-up may result in forfeiture of the prize and reassignment to an alternate winner.

4.5. Prize Claim Deadline: All prizes must be claimed within two (2) months of the end of the Event. After this period, unclaimed prizes may be forfeited and reassigned at the organizers' discretion.

5. Participation Recognition

5.1. All participants who play at least one (1) game during the Event will receive a digital certificate of participation.

5.2. In addition, players who score at least 0.5 points (i.e., draw or win at least one game) during the Event will have a special "Social Chess Year" pawn icon added to their Lichess account, commemorating their active involvement in the FIDE Social Chess Day 2025.

6. Fair Play

6.1. The rules of the Lichess server and FIDE online fair play regulations will be applied, and fair play decisions and disciplinary decisions will be made by Lichess. Players acknowledge to play by the rules of Lichess, and any relevant Terms of Service or other documentation.

6.2. Lichess reserves the right to remove a player from the tournament, or declare their ongoing game lost by forfeit, should the fair play requirements not meet the standard they feel comfortable with. Such a removal does not constitute a claim of definitive proof of actual cheating. The tournament director's decision on such removals is final and cannot be further appealed outside of Lichess standard processes.