



FIDE

FIDE World Amateur
RAPID AND BLITZ
Chess Championships 2026

Aug 1st – Aug 8th 2026

Abuja, Nigeria



NCF
NIGERIA CHESS FEDERATION



1. Invitation

This is the official invitation to all national chess federations, members of FIDE and eligible players to participate in the FIDE World Amateur Rapid and Blitz Chess Championships 2026 for men and women with a FIDE rating under 2300.

In total, 12 (Twelve) champions titles will be awarded: OPEN & Women U1700, OPEN & Women U2000 and OPEN & Women U2300, Rapid and Blitz. The championships will be held from 1st (arrival) to 8th (departure) August 2026 in Abuja, the Federal Capital Territory of Nigeria.



2. Venue, Date & Schedule

The championships will be held in JOHNWOOD HOTEL ABUJA from 01/08/2026 (arrival date) until 08/08/2026 (departure date) under the auspices of the International Chess Federation (FIDE) and the Nigeria Chess Federation.

The playing venue will be BOLTON EVENT HALL BY JOHNWOOD.



Event Schedule:

Saturday	Aug 1st	All day	Arrival day
Sunday	Aug 2nd	10:30	Confirmation of Participation
		11:00	Technical Meeting
		14:00	Opening Ceremony
		15:00	Rapid Championships Rounds 1 - 3
Monday	Aug 3rd	15:00	Rapid Championships Rounds 4 - 7
Tuesday	Aug 4 th	15:00	Rapid Championships Rounds 8 – 11
Wednesday	Aug 5 th	Free day / Side Events	
Thursday	Aug 6 th	15:00	Blitz Championships Rounds 1-6
Friday	Aug 7 th	15:00	Blitz Championships Rounds 7-11
		19:00	CLOSING CEREMONY
Saturday	Aug 8 th	DEPARTURE	



3. Technical Regulations

3.1. There will be separate Championships for FIDE rating categories under 2300, under 2000 & under 1700. There shall be separate Women's Championship(s) if there are at least twenty players from at least two continents in each category. Otherwise, Women players will play in Open competition and in this case of a merged tournament, women players will be eligible to win prizes from both categories.

For example, if the 1st woman player also wins the 3rd place in the men (open) standings, she will receive both prizes in terms of any trophies, medals, prize money and qualification rights.

3.2. The Championships are open for players registered by their national federation. FIDE member federations shall have the right to send as many players as they wish. The Champions from each WA-RBC rating section and from each Continental Rapid and Blitz Amateur Championship rating section, of the year preceding this edition (2025), are invited with personal rights as long as they don't reach or exceed a FIDE rating of 2300 by the registration deadline, and their places cannot be substituted

3.3. a) For participation in the U2300 section, a player must not have a published FIDE rating of 2300 or greater for at least one year prior to the registration deadline (July 15th 2026). A player must not have any title above FM (or WFM for women) when the tournament starts.

b) For participation in the U2000 section, a player must not have a published FIDE rating of 2000 or greater for at least one year prior to the registration deadline (July 15th 2026)). A player must not have any title above CM (or WCM for women) when the tournament starts.

c) For participation in the U1700 section, a player must not have a published FIDE rating of 1700 or greater for at least one year prior to the registration deadline (July 15th 2026). A player must not have any title above CM (or WCM for women) when the tournament starts.

d) If a player reaches or exceeds the FIDE rating of 1700 or 2000 after the registration deadline, he/she will play in the upper rating category.

3.4. FIDE rated Swiss system will be used with 11 rounds played. The Championships shall be governed by the General Regulations for FIDE Competitions.

3.5. a. Rapid: Time control is 15 minutes plus 10 seconds increment from move one.

b. Blitz: Time control is 3 minutes plus 2 seconds increment from move one.

3.6. Default time is 5 minutes and zero default time for Blitz. Any player who arrives at the chessboard after the default time shall lose the game unless the Chief Arbiter decides otherwise.

3.7. The final ranking order of the players is determined by the number of points scored. If two or more players are tied for the first place or for any prize, the tie shall be broken in the following order:

- a) Direct Encounter points (applies only if all tied players have played each other),
- b) Buchholz Cut 1,
- c) Buchholz,
- d) Greater Number of games played with Black Pieces,
- e) Greater Number of Wins.
- f) Drawing of lots.

3.8. No player may hold any title above CM or WCM in the U1700 and U2000 sections. No player may hold any title above FM or WFM in the U2300 section. These restrictions will not apply to players whose age makes them eligible to participate in that year's World Seniors 65+ category.

Category	Rating Limit (Article 3)	Ineligible Titles (Article 4)
Under 2300	≤ 2300	IM, WIM, GM, WGM
Under 2000	≤ 2000	FM, WFM, IM, WIM, GM, GM
Under 1700	≤ 1700	FM, WFM, IM, WIM, GM, WGM

3.9. FIDE officials of the Championship (Chief Arbiter, Appeals Committee, FIDE Technical delegate) will be announced in due time.



4. Prizes, Titles & Certificates

4.1. The three (3) gold winners of the Open sections receive respectively the titles of:

2026 World Amateur Rapid Champion for the U2300

2026 World Amateur Rapid Champion for the U2000

2026 World Amateur Rapid Champion U1700

2026 World Amateur Blitz Champion for the U2300

2026 World Amateur Blitz Champion U2000

2026 World Amateur Blitz Champion U1700

4.2. The three (3) gold winners of the Women sections receive respectively the titles of:

2026 World Women's Amateur Rapid Champion for the U2300

2026 World Women's Amateur Rapid Champion U2000

2026 World Women's Amateur Rapid Champion U1700

2026 World Women's Amateur Blitz Champion for the U2300

2026 World Women's Amateur Blitz Champion U2000

2026 World Women's Amateur Blitz Champion U1700

4.3. The gold winners (1st place) of each section U2300, U2000 and U1700 (in total 6 winners, men and women sections) also obtain a personal right qualification for the next FIDE World Amateur Rapid And Blitz Championships, as long as they don't reach or exceed a FIDE rating of 2300, with free accommodation in double occupancy room & full board provided from the local Organizing Committee of the FIDE World Amateur Rapid and Blitz Championships 2027.

4.4. The winners of the 1st place in all 3 sections will receive trophy, gold medal and diploma, the winners of the 2nd and 3rd place in all 3 sections will receive silver and bronze medal and diplomas.

4.5. Total prize fund is €20,160.

Rapid	1st Place	2nd Place	3rd Place	1st Best Nigerian	2nd Best Nigerian
U2300					
Open	1,250	900	600	300	200
Women	600	450	300	175	60
U2000					
Open	900	600	300	175	60
Women	450	300	175	120	50
U1700					
Open	600	450	175	125	60
Women	300	225	88	63	30
Total					€10,080

Blitz	1st Place	2nd Place	3rd Place	1st Best Nigerian	2nd Best Nigerian
U2300					
Open	1,250	900	600	300	200
Women	600	450	300	175	60
U2000					
Open	900	600	300	175	60
Women	450	300	175	120	50
U1700					
Open	600	450	175	125	60
Women	300	225	88	63	30
Total					€10,080

4.6. All participants will receive a gift from the Organizer and a certificate of participation.

5. Appeals procedure and Appeals Committee

5.1. The Appeals Committee consists of 3 people, one of whom may be the FIDE Technical Delegate. Two additional reserve members will be appointed at the Technical Meeting as no member shall take part in a decision affecting a player of his own federation.

5.2. A protest against the Chief Arbiters' decisions must be submitted in writing to the Chairman of the Appeals Committee within one hour after the completion of the respective game. The protest must be accompanied with the sum of 200€, as a deposit. If the appeal is granted, the sum shall be returned immediately. If the appeal is refused, the deposit is forfeited to FIDE. The Appeals Committee may also decide to refund the fee if it considers the appeal to be non-frivolous. The decisions of the Appeals Committee are final.

5.3. The decision of the Appeals Committee is final, binding, and takes effect immediately.

6. Registration and Registration Fees

For participants who has to apply for Nigerian visa, request for Invitation Letter must be sent the latest on **June 30, 2026**.

The deadline for the registration of participants and accompanying persons is **June 30, 2026**. The registration fee and hotel expenses must be paid by this deadline.

Registration is to be done through the form provided by the Organizer.

The registration fee for the players plus FIDE fee will be €180 in total, which must be paid to the Organizer.

Registration fee: €120

FIDE fee: €30 Rapid, €30 Blitz

The registration fee for delegates, coaches and accompanying persons is €60.

7. Travel Information

For all accredited participants and accompanying persons, the Organizer will provide the transfer services from Abuja International airport, to the official hotels on 1st Aug 2026 as well as the departure transfer on August 8th 2026 free of charge. All travel information must be sent by e-mail to worldamateur_rb@fide.com, not later than July 25th, 2026.

The Organizer will publish the transfer schedule and other important details 3 days prior to arrival.



8. Accommodation

All Participants are obliged to stay in official hotels and bookings must be done only through the Organizer.

For players, coaches and accompanying persons, the Organizer has provided official hotels with prices which are indicated below.

Daily cost of full board accommodation (Open Buffet, breakfast, lunch, and dinner)

€100 per person for double room, €120 per person for Single



9. Payments

After the registration form has been filled in, sent to the Organizer and approved by the Organizer, the national federations will receive pro-forma invoices for bank payments. The pro-forma invoices will contain all the necessary details for the bank payment.

The sender must pay all bank commissions.

All payments must be done before registration deadline on July 15th, 2026 to the following account:

Account holder: Nigeria Chess Federation

Bank: ZENITH BANK

IBAN: 50800339119

SWIFT: ZEIBNGLAWEB

Sort Code: 057

Reference: Amateur 2026

Once the bank transfer is validated, the Organizing Committee will confirm the assigned booking confirmation for all the rooms.

10. Fair Play Protection Measures

The Organizer will implement strict measures to prevent any possible cheating attempts.

This implies detailed control before entering the playing hall, delayed transfer of games, control of the playing venue and prevention of any mutual verbal and non-verbal communication.

The Fair Play team will be encouraged to devise a system for conducting random checks during the tournament.

11. Medical Service

During the tournament, medical service will be provided according to the FIDE Regulations. Players have to insure themselves against health risks and accidents for the duration of the Championship.

12. Local Information

The standard voltage in Nigeria is 220 Volts.

The local currency is Naira (₦).

13. Visa Information

Citizens of West African countries are not required to hold a visa to enter Nigeria.

Request for Visa Invitation letter must be sent by **June 30, 2026**.

Participants can obtain e-visa into Nigeria from:

[Nigerian Immigration Services | Visa](#)

14. Payment Protection

Registration fees for the late registration, withdrawal or no show shall be charged as described at Article 3.9. of <https://handbook.fide.com/chapter/D0401202312>

15. Contact Information

Official e-mail: worldamateur_rb@fide.com

Official website: worldamateur_rb2026.fide.com

Chairman of Organizing Committee: Prince Adeyinka Adewole, Vice-President of Nigeria Chess Federation