

# QUEENS' ONLINE CHESS FESTIVAL 2026

MARCH, 1-29

The Queens' Online Chess Festival 2026 is a series of continental women's online blitz tournaments. The Festival will start on 1 March 2026 and is dedicated to International Women's Day (8 March). The event is organized within the framework of the Chess4All FIDE WOM Project.

The Festival is organized by the FIDE Commission for Women's Chess, with support of Lichess as official platform partner. The Governing Body of the Queens' Online Chess Festival is the International Chess Federation (FIDE).

The festival welcomes all women chess players from around the world of all ages and all rating groups, including unrated chess fans. The registration is free of charge.

This year's edition of the festival gives the opportunity to play in two tournaments:

## QUEENS' WOMEN'S OPEN TOURNAMENT – REGULATIONS (APPENDIX A)

	Tournament	Date
1	African Online Blitz Qualification	March 1st
2	European Online Blitz Qualification	March 7th
3	Asian Online Blitz Qualification	March 8th
4	American Online Blitz Qualification	March 15th
5	Queens' Online Semi-Final Blitz	March 22nd
6	Queens' Online Final Blitz	March 29th

## UNRATED PRINCESSES' TOURNAMENT – REGULATIONS (APPENDIX B)

	Tournament	Date
1	Princesses' Online Qualification Stage	March 22nd
2	Princesses' Online Final Stage	March 29th

\*Unrated players U17 years old (born on 01.01.2009 or later) can choose whether they wish to participate in the Queens' Women's Open tournament or in the Unrated Princesses' tournament or to play in both events.

## APPENDIX A

# REGULATIONS FOR THE QUEENS' WOMEN OPEN TOURNAMENT

### 1. General

1.1. The Queens' Online Chess Festival 2026 is organized under the aegis of the FIDE Commission for Women's Chess (here in after referred to as "Organizing Committee") with a visual support from the Lichess platform.

1.2. At any time, any circumstance or unforeseen situation not covered in these Regulations shall be referred to WOM (Organizing Committee) for the final decision.

### 2. Participation

2.1. The tournament is open to all female players not banned by the hosting Internet platform (HIP). The hosting Internet platform for the Queens' Festival will be Lichess.

2.2. In the event of global internet problems or server issues, the WOM (Organizing Committee) as reserves the right to amend the Regulations.

2.3 The participation is free of charge.

### 3. Registration

3.1. Registrations are open to all female participants with FIDE ID.

3.2. Registrations are made by the players filling the form before the deadline indicated in the link <https://forms.gle/rBcspUh9Fth9fQki9>

3.3 The players are registered and ranked by their FIDE standard rating (March 1, 2026 FIDE Rating List). The tournaments will not be calculated for FIDE rating.

3.4 The registration deadline for each Continent is:

Africa	February 22nd, 2026	Asia	March 1st, 2026
Europe	March 1st, 2026	America	March 7th, 2026

3.5 Organizing Committee may refuse to accept players registered after the registration deadline.

3.6 After the participant completes the registration, the Organizing Committee will send to the participant's email stated in the registration form instructions on how to proceed and use Lichess during the tournament.

### 4. System of Play

4.1 Format for Qualifications: Swiss System, 9 rounds.

4.2 The Qualification pairings shall be made according to the HIP built-in pairing system for Swiss System events. FIDE standard ratings of March 1, 2026, shall be used for pairing purposes. Players with no standard FIDE rating shall be considered unrated.

4.3 Format for Queens' Semi-Final: Swiss System, 9 rounds.

4.4 Format for Queens' Final: Round-Robin, 7 rounds.

4.5 Time control for Qualifications and Semi-Final: 3 min +2 secs for per move starting from move 1.

4.6 Time control for Final: 5 min +5 secs for per move starting from move 1.

4.7 The tie-break system is described in the respective sections.

4.8 Swiss Pairings will be made in accordance with the JaVaFo pairing software endorsed by FIDE, implemented by HIP.

4.9 FIDE Online Chess Regulations apply for the Semi-Final and Final: all players must join ZOOM, turn their camera on and share their screen. A ZOOM call will be active during the Qualification stages.

A Zoom call is not mandatory for the Qualification stage; however, players may be randomly invited to join Zoom.

## 5. Schedule

Tournament	Date	Target time zone start
African Online Blitz Qualification	March 1st	9:00 am UTC
European Online Blitz Qualification	March 7th	9:00 am UTC
Asian Online Blitz Qualification	March 8th	9:00 am UTC
American Online Blitz Qualification	March 15th	13:00 pm UTC
Queen's Online Semi-Final Individual Blitz	March 22nd	13:00 pm UTC
Queen's Online Final Individual Blitz	March 29th	13:00 pm UTC

5.2 The dates of the technical meeting, opening ceremony and test tournaments will be announced in due time.

## 6. Qualification

6.1 There shall be one qualification tournament per continent. The Winner will receive the title of the Queen of a respective continent.

6.2 First 25 winners in each category qualify for the Queens' Online Semi-Final Individual Blitz.

6.3 If two or more players score the same number of points, the tie shall be decided by the criteria described in order of priority:

- a) Direct encounter (if all tied players have played with each other)
- b) Buchholz Cut-1
- c) Buchholz
- d) Greater number of Games Won
- e) Number of games played with Black

## 7. Queens' Online Semi-Final Individual Blitz

7.1 There shall be one tournament for all continents with 100 players, 25 qualifiers from each Continent. The format will be Swiss System, 9 rounds .

7.2 Only players according to point 6.2 are eligible to participate in the tournament.

7.3 If two or more players score the same number of points, the tie shall be decided by the criteria described in order of priority:

- a) Direct encounter (if all tied players have played with each other)
- b) Buchholz Cut-1
- c) Buchholz
- d) Greater number of Games Won
- e) Number of games played with Black

## 8. Queens' Online Final Individual Blitz

8.1 The top 8 winners of the Semi-Final will compete in a Round-Robin tournament to define the overall winner.

8.2 If two or more players score the same number of points, the tie shall be decided by the criteria described in order of priority:

- a) Direct encounter (if all tied players have played with each other)
- b) Sonneborn-Burger
- c) Greater number of Games Won
- d) Number of games played with Black

## 9. Fair Play Panel

9.1 The Fair Play panel is in charge of overseeing the Fair Play measures of the event and making decisions related to any violation of the Fair Play rules.

9.2 All results and standings are provisional until the Fair Play control has been completed.

9.3 The Fair Play Panel, in consultation with the Chief Arbiter, has the right to disqualify a player from the competition on the grounds of suspicion of Fair Play violation. No sanctions will be extended to other online or OTB events, nor is the decision a claim that cheating has been proven.

9.4 Disqualified players will be removed from all stages of the event and are not eligible for any prizes or titles. All points earned by such players will be awarded to their opponents.

## 10. Fair Play Measures

During the semi-final for the Queens Open tournament and for the final stages of the Queens' and Princesses' tournaments:

10.1 All players are required to be present in their assigned Zoom meeting at all times while their game is in progress.

10.2 The Zoom meetings will be recorded for internal Fair Play verification purposes. No recordings will be released to the public. To further protect participants' privacy, recordings will be deleted 14 days after the end of the tournament unless an incident occurs, in which case the recordings may be kept for judicial purposes.

10.3 Players are required to write their real name in Zoom call in the following way: "Country Code-SurnameName" e.g., "CZE-MencikovaVera".

10.4 Players are required to have their cameras and microphones on and share their screens at all times while they are playing. It is prohibited to have any other applications running on the computer other than Zoom and a web browser with the HIP platform unless they are approved by the Chief Arbiter (such as antivirus, VPN, etc.). The taskbar (or equivalent in non-Windows machines) must be visible at all times. Players can mute or turn off their speakers in order to not be disturbed during the game.

10.5 If players are asked, they must demonstrate a Task Manager check (or equivalent in other operating systems) before, during, or immediately after their game.

10.6 Players are required to stay in the area which is visible on camera at all times while their game is in progress, unless the player has received permission from the Chief Arbiter. They might be asked to show the room they are playing in with their camera. No other people are allowed to be present in the room where the player is playing at any time while a game is in progress without permission of the Chief Arbiter.

10.7 Other than the device which is being used for playing games (and has a screen-share running), no electronic communication devices or chess playing aids are permitted in the room where the player is playing. Players can only play from a computer or a laptop, not a mobile/tablet. Players are not allowed to wear headphones or other electronic device during play.

10.8 All games of the Qualification stage, Semi-final and the Final will be put through a fair play verification process involving statistical correlation analysis by the tools of HIP and the FIDE Screening Tool (Prof. Kenneth Regan).

Please check the following regulations for further fair play details - <https://fpl.fide.com/wp-content/uploads/2023/04/BEST-FAIR-PLAY-PRACTICES-FOR-ONLINE-EVENTS-.pdf>

## 11. Disconnections

11.1 Players are responsible for their own high-speed, stable internet connection. A stable connection is required in order to comply with regulations, maintain communication with Arbiters and participate in games on the HIP platform during the entire event.

11.2 In the case of disconnection a player may reconnect and return to the game, while there is still time on their clock, provided they are at all times compliant with Fair Play regulations unless there is a technical issue. For the avoidance of doubt, a player may not make a move on the chessboard until they have reconnected to the Zoom call, shared their screen and turned their webcam on. If a player is unable to reconnect and re-establishes compliance with Fair Play regulations before their flag falls, they will lose the game.

11.3 All disconnections will be treated in the same way unless the Chief Arbiter decides otherwise.

## 12. Appeals

12.1 The Organizer shall appoint the Chairperson and four other members of the Appeals Committee (one from each Continent).

12.2 A member of the Appeals Committee cannot sit in judgement in a dispute involving one player from his/her Federation.

12.3 All appeals and protests shall be submitted in writing to the Appeals Committee no later than 15 minutes after the completion of the relevant round or communication of a sanction by FPP. Contact email address will be provided at the technical meeting.

12.4 The Appeals Committee shall endeavor to make a decision at the end of each day. The tournament will continue during the decision-making process.

12.5 The written decision of the Appeals Committee arising from any dispute in respect of these Regulations is final.

12.6 In case the appeal is rejected the complainant will be charged an amount of 200 euros, to be deposited when the appeal is filed. If the appeal is rejected, the fee is not returned to the claimant.

## 13. Awards

13.1 All players shall receive an electronic certificate of participation.

13.2 The winner of each Qualification in the Queens' festival tournaments: Americas, Asia, Africa and Europe, will receive a voucher of 100 USD for the purchase at the [www.shop.fide.com](http://www.shop.fide.com). To receive their vouchers the winners should send their email address to [women@fide.com](mailto:women@fide.com) after the event.

13.3 The first ten winners in all the qualification tournaments will be entitled to two 45-minute training sessions with Women Grandmasters. Details to be announced.

13.4 The winner of The Queen Festival Chess Tournament will be invited to the 46th World Chess Olympiad 2026 in Uzbekistan. The hotel accommodation for 3 nights full board (if winner u18 then accompanying person also can stay in the hotel with full board). Only the winner of the Queens' Women's Open Tournament invited to the 46th World Chess Olympiad 2026, this right cannot be passed to another player. The official Cup award ceremony for the Queens' Festival 2026 will take place during the Olympiad 2026.

The winner is solely responsible for purchasing their own travel tickets and covering all travel expenses to the Olympiad at their own cost.

In the event that the winner is a minor, the same conditions apply to their accompanying person. The accompanying person is solely responsible for arranging and covering the cost of their own travel to the Olympiad.

13.5 The Queen Festival Chess Tournament offers a prize fund of 600 USD. The first-place winner will receive 300 USD, the second-place winner will receive 200 USD, and the third-place winner will receive 100 USD.

13.6 To receive their prize money, the winners are required to submit their bank details to [women@fide.com](mailto:women@fide.com) within 14 days after the conclusion of the event. For SEPA transfers, the bank details must include the full name of the beneficiary, bank name, IBAN, and SWIFT/BIC code (if applicable). For non-SEPA transfers, the bank details must include the full name of the beneficiary, bank name, bank address, account number, and SWIFT/BIC code. Any bank charges or transfer fees incurred during the payment process shall be borne by the recipient.

## APPENDIX B

REGULATIONS FOR THE UNRATED  
PRINCESSES' TOURNAMENT

U09, U11, U13, U15, U17

1. The Unrated Princesses' tournament U09, U11, U13, U15, U17.

1.1 The Unrated Princesses' tournament is open to all female players without any of the FIDE rating (classic, rapid and blitz) **only**. The hosting Internet platform will be Lichess. In the event of global internet problems or server issues, the Organiser reserves the right to amend the Regulations. The participation is free of charge.

1.2 To participate in the Unrated Princesses' tournament, players need to be U17 years old (**born on 01.01.2009 or later**) and have no FIDE rating. National rating is acceptable but will not influence on the pairing of the event. At the Qualification stage, all players will play together.

1.3 3 There will be two Qualification stages (players can play in only one) and a Final stage with winners of each age category according to the following schedule:

Event	Format	Date	Time
Qualification Group A	7 rounds	March 22nd	9:00 UTC
Qualification Group B	7 rounds	March 22nd	18:00 UTC
Final stage	9 rounds	March 29th	13:00 UTC

1.4 Registrations are made by the players filling this form before deadline: <https://forms.gle/c6ZsH6gxPAEN7ZAz9>

The deadline for registration is March 15th.

After the participant completes the registration, the Organizing Committee will send to the participant's email stated in the registration form instructions on how to proceed and use Lichess during the tournament.

1.5 If two or more players score the same number of points in the Qualification stage, the tie shall be decided by the criteria described in order of priority:

- a) Direct encounter (if all tied players have played with each other)
- b) Buchholz Cut-1
- c) Buchholz
- d) Greater number of Games Won
- e) Number of games played with Black

1.6 The highest-ranked players in each age category (U09, U11, U13, U15, U17) from both qualification stages will compete in a 9-round Round Robin tournament to define the overall winner. If a qualified player is unable to participate, she may be replaced by the next highest-ranked player until the list of finalists is complete.

1.7 If two or more players score the same number of points in the Final stages, the tie shall be decided by the criteria described in order of priority:

- a) Direct encounter (if all tied players have played with each other)
- b) Sonneborn-Burger
- c) Greater number of Games Won
- d) Number of games played with Black

1.8 The time control for all stages and editions of the Princesses' Festival is 5 min + 5 sec per move starting from move 1.

## 2. Fair Play Panel

2.1 The Fair Play panel is in charge of overseeing the Fair Play measures of the event and making decisions related to violation of the Fair Play rules.

2.2 All results and standings are provisional until the Fair Play control has been completed.

2.3 The Fair Play Panel, in consultation with the Chief Arbiter, has the right to disqualify a player from the competition on the grounds of suspicion of Fair Play violation. No sanctions will be extended to other online or OTB events, nor is the decision a claim that cheating has been proven.

2.4 Disqualified players will be removed from all stages of the event and are not eligible for any prizes or titles. All points earned by such players will be awarded to their opponents.

### 3. Fair Play Measures

During the semi-final for the Queens Open tournament and for the final stages of the Queens' and Princesses' tournaments:

3.1 All players are required to be present in their assigned Zoom meeting at all times while their game is in progress.

3.2 The Zoom meetings will be recorded for internal Fair Play verification purposes. No recordings will be released to the public. To further protect participant privacy, recordings will be deleted 14 days after the end of the tournament unless an incident occurs, in which case the recordings may be kept for judicial purposes.

3.3 Players are required to write their real name in Zoom call in the following way: "Country Code-SurnameName" e.g., "CZE-MencikovaVera".

3.4 Players are required to have their microphones on and share their screen at all times while they are playing, cameras shall be on during the Final. It is prohibited to have any applications running on the computer other than Zoom and a web browser with the HIP platform unless they are approved by the Chief Arbiter (such as antivirus, VPN, etc.). The taskbar (or equivalent in non-Windows machines) must be visible at all times. Players can mute or turn off their speakers in order to not be disturbed during the game.

3.5 If players are asked, they must demonstrate a Task Manager check (or equivalent in other operating systems) before, during, or immediately after their game.

3.6 Players are required to stay in the area which is visible on camera at all times while their game is in progress, unless the player has received permission from the Chief Arbiter. They might be asked to show the room they are playing in with their camera. No other people are allowed to be present in the room where the player is playing at any time while a game is in progress without permission of the Chief Arbiter.

3.7 Other than the device which is being used for playing games (and has a screen-share running), no electronic communication devices or chess playing aids are permitted in the room where the player is playing. Players can only play from a computer or a laptop, not a mobile/tablet. Players are not allowed to wear headphones or other electronic device during play.

3.8 All games of the Qualification stage, Semi-final and the Final will be put through a fair play verification process involving statistical correlation analysis by the tools of HIP and the FIDE Screening Tool (Prof. Kenneth Regan).

Please check the following regulations for further fair play details - <https://fpl.fide.com/wp-content/uploads/2023/04/BEST-FAIR-PLAY-PRACTICES-FOR-ONLINE-EVENTS-.pdf>

## 4. Disconnections

4.1 Players are responsible for their own high-speed, stable internet connection. A stable connection is required in order to comply with regulations, maintain communication with Arbiters and participate in games on the HIP platform during the entire event.

4.2 In the case of disconnection a player may reconnect and return to the game, while there is still time on their clock, provided they are at all times compliant with Fair Play regulations unless there is a technical issue. For the avoidance of doubt, a player may not make a move on the chessboard until they have reconnected to the Zoom call, shared their screen and turned their webcam. If a player is unable to reconnect and re-establish compliance with Fair Play regulations before their flag falls, they will lose the game.

4.3 All disconnections will be treated in the same way unless the Chief Arbiter decides otherwise.

## 5. Appeals

5.1 The Organizer shall appoint the Chairman and four other members of the Appeals Committee (one from each Continent).

5.2 A member of the Appeals Committee cannot sit in judgement in a dispute involving one player from his/her Federation.

5.3 All appeals and protests shall be submitted in writing to the Appeals Committee no later than 15 minutes after the completion of the relevant round or communication of a sanction by FPP. Contact email address will be provided at the technical meeting.

5.4 The Appeals Committee shall endeavor to make a decision at the end of each day. The tournament will continue during the decision-making process.

5.5 The written decision of the Appeals Committee arising from any dispute in respect of these Regulations is final.

5.6 In case the appeal is rejected the complainant will be charged an amount of 200 euros, to be deposited when the appeal is filed. If the appeal is rejected, the fee is not returned to the claimant.

## 6. Awards

6.1 All players shall receive an electronic certificate of participation.

6.2 The top three players in each age category at both qualification stages of the Princesses' Chess Festival will receive 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place diplomas in their respective age categories (U9, U11, U13, U15, U17).

6.3 The first ten winners in all the qualification tournaments will be entitled to two 45-minute training sessions with Women Grandmasters. Details to be announced.

6.4 The winner of the FINAL of the Princesses' Chess Festival will receive a physical trophy. To receive their trophies the winner should send her postal address to [women@fide.com](mailto:women@fide.com) after the event.

6.5 The first place winner will receive a voucher of 100 USD, the second and the third place winners will receive a vouchers of 50 USD each for the purchase at the [www.shop.fide.com](http://www.shop.fide.com). To receive their vouchers the winners should send their email address to [women@fide.com](mailto:women@fide.com) after the event.

## 7. Contact Information

General Director: Ozgur Solakoglu (TUR)

Tournament Director: Ulkar Umudova (AZE)

Festival Coordinator: Yilmaz Kartal (TUR)

Chief Arbiter: IA Kaussar Bauyrzhan (KAZ)

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