



FIDE World Senior Chess Championships 2026

November 2nd – 15th, Vrnjacka Banja, Serbia



1. Invitation

This is the official invitation to all national chess federations, members of FIDE and eligible players to participate in the **FIDE World Senior Chess Championships 2026**.

In total, 4 (four) championship titles will be awarded: **OPEN & Women 50+** and **OPEN & Women 65+**.

Vrnjacka Banja is the largest and most famous spa resort in Serbia, informally called “the queen of spa tourism”. It is located 200 km south from Belgrade. Vrnjacka Banja is rich in mineral water which are known for their healing properties. Apart from health tourism, Vrnjacka Banja is also famous for other interesting things. Vrnjačka Banja also has the status of a chess symbol, and in the last few years the following competitions have been successfully organized at the same place:

- 2023: European Individual Championship
- 2024: European Club Cup & European Club Cup for Women
- 2025: FIDE World School Chess Championships
- 2025: FIDE World Amateur Chess Championships
- 2026: FIDE World Cadet & Youth Rapid and Blitz Chess Championships

2. Venue, Date & Schedule

The championships will be held in Hotel “Zepter” in Vrnjacka Banja, Serbia from November 2nd (arrival date) until November 15th (departure date) 2026 under the auspices of the International Chess Federation (FIDE) and Vrnjacka Banja Municipality. The playing venue will be Hotel Zepter Conference Hall.

Schedule:

Monday	November 2 nd	All day	Arrival day
Tuesday	November 3 rd	10:30	Technical meeting
Tuesday	November 3 rd	14:00	Opening ceremony
Tuesday	November 3 rd	15:00	Round 1
Wednesday	November 4 th	15:00	Round 2
Thursday	November 5 th	15:00	Round 3
Friday	November 6 th	15:00	Round 4
Saturday	November 7 th	15:00	Round 5
Sunday	November 8 th	All day	Rest day
Sunday	November 8 th	11:00	Side Event: V. Banja Trophy
Monday	November 9 th	15:00	Round 6
Tuesday	November 10 th	15:00	Round 7
Wednesday	November 11 th	15:00	Round 8
Thursday	November 12 th	15:00	Round 9
Friday	November 13 th	15:00	Round 10
Saturday	November 14 th	14:00	Round 11
Saturday	November 14 th	21:30	Closing ceremony
Sunday	November 15 th	All day	Departure day

3. Technical Regulations

3.1. In accordance with the FIDE tournament regulations, there shall be the following categories:

- 3.1.1 Open 50+, open to all players who are 50 or older in 2026.
- 3.1.2 Open 65+, open to all players who are 65 or older in 2026.
- 3.1.3 Women 50+, open to all women who are 50 or older in 2026.
- 3.1.4 Women 65+, open to all women who are 65 or older in 2026.

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.

3.3. With FIDE support the Organizer should ensure representation of all continents and at least 20 participants in each of the categories (3.1.1-1.1.4).

FIDE Events Commission (EVE) is responsible for exceptional decisions regarding final configuration of the categories mentioned above in 3.1.3 & 3.1.4, in cases when requirements of Rule 3.3 are not met. All decisions in this regard must be made at least two weeks before the start of the competition.

3.4. The top 3 players from each category of the previous year of FIDE World Senior Individual Chess Championships shall have personal rights to participate and their places cannot be substituted. In addition, the top 3 players from each category of the previous year of Continental Senior Individual Chess Championships are qualified with personal rights and their places cannot be substituted.

3.5. Players, other than Invited Players (Players with the personal rights), shall be classified as Additional Players. All other persons, other than players shall be classified as Accompanying Persons.

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

3.7. Time control is 90 minutes for 40 moves and additional 30 minutes to the end of the game, plus 30 seconds increment from move one.

3.8. Default time is 30 minutes. Any player who arrives at the chessboard after the default time shall lose the game unless the Chief Arbiter decides otherwise.

3.9. 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.

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

3.11. At any time, any circumstance or unforeseen situation not covered in these Regulations shall be referred to the FIDE President for the final decision.

4. Prizes, Titles & Certificates

4.1. The two (2) gold winners of the Open sections receive respectively the titles of:

"2026 World Senior Chess Champion 50+"

"2026 World Senior Chess Champion 65+"

4.2. The two (2) gold winners of the Women sections receive respectively the titles of:

“2026 World Women’s Senior Chess Champion 50+”

“2026 World Women’s Senior Chess Champion 65+”

4.3. The winners of the 1st place in all 4 categories will receive trophy and gold medal, the winners of the 2nd and 3rd place in all 4 categories will receive silver and bronze medals.

4.4. Total prize fund is **50.000 EUR**.

OPEN 50+: (19.700 EUR)

1st place 5.000, 2nd place 4.000, 3rd place 3.000, 4th place 2.200, 5th place 1.600, 6th 1.200,
7th 900, 8th 700, 9th 600, 10th 500

WOMEN 50+: (7.000 EUR)

1st place 2.500, 2nd place 2.000, 3rd place 1.500, 4th 1.000

OPEN 65+: (15.000 EUR)

1st place 4.000, 2nd place 3.000, 3rd place 2.000, 4th place 1.500, 5th place 1.200, 6th 1.000,
7th 800, 8th 600, 9th 500, 10th 400

WOMEN 65+: (5.300 EUR)

1st place 2.000, 2nd place 1.500, 3rd place 1.000, 4th 800

SPEICAL PRIZES 75+: (3.000 EUR, not cumulative)

1st place 1.000, 2nd place 800, 3rd place 600,

Women 1st place 600

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

4.7. The Direct titles shall be awarded according to the conditions in the FIDE to regulations below:

<https://handbook.fide.com/chapter/B01DirectTitles2025>

5. Appeals procedure and Appeals Committee

5.1. The Appeals Committee consists of 3 persons, 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 citizenship of a non-European country which has to apply for Serbian visa, request for Invitation Letter must be sent the latest on September 1st 2026. For those participants who send request after the deadline, Serbian Chess Federation will not guarantee support for visa issuing.

The deadline for the registration of participants and accompanying persons is Friday, September 25th. The registration fee and hotel expenses must be paid by this deadline.

Organizers reserve the right to refuse or decline late registrations or, if there is availability, a penalty of 70 € for each late registration will be charged to participants.

Registration is to be done through the form provided in the attachment.

The registration fee for the players and accompanying persons will be 120€ and it includes accreditation badge and transfer from Kraljevo "Morava" airport or from Nis "Konstantin Veliki" airport.

7. Travel Information

For all accredited players and accompanying persons, the organizer will provide the transfer services from Kraljevo "Morava" airport or from Nis "Konstantin Veliki" airport to the official hotels on November 2nd as well as the departure transfer on November 15th free of charge.

For those accredited players and accompanying persons who want to use Belgrade "Nikola Tesla" airport there is a surcharge of 60€ and it covers both directions.

All travel information must be sent by e-mail to worldsenior@fide.com, not later than October 23rd, 2026.

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

8. Accommodation

All players and accompanying persons must be accredited and preferably stay at the official hotel of the event. Those bookings must be done only through the organizers.

Invited players, as per FIDE regulations, are offered FREE full board accommodation in a single room (if not asked differently to share room with another participant) in Hotel Kralj from November 2nd (arrival day) to November 15th (departure day) or in a shared double room in Hotel Zepter.

For players, coaches and accompanying persons, the organizer has provided official hotels with prices which are indicated below. Daily cost of full board accommodation (buffet service for all meals, breakfast, lunch, and dinner) or half board accommodation (buffet service for breakfast and dinner), per person:

Hotel Zepter ****

<https://zepterhotelvbanja.com/>



Zepter ****	Single	Double	Triple	4-persons
Full Board	105€	85€	76€	N/A
Half Board	97€	77€	68€	N/A

Number of rooms in **Hotel "Zepter"** is limited to 100 rooms and the reservation will be done on the "first come, first served" basis.

Apartments ZepterMe ****

<https://zepterme.rs/en/home/>

Luxury apartments larger than standard hotel rooms, ideal for families, are located in the annex of the “Zepter” hotel. The number of apartments is limited to 30 and the reservation will be done on the "first come, first served" basis.

Buffet service for all meals (breakfast, lunch, and dinner) will be served in Hotel Zepter.



ZepterMe ****	Single	Double	Triple	4-persons
Full Board	110€	90€	81€	81€
Half Board	102€	82€	73€	73€

Hotel Fontana ****

<https://fontanavrnjackabanja.com/>

Hotel “Fontana” is located **200 m** to the playing hall.



Fontana ****	Single	Double	Triple	4-persons
Full Board	109€	87€	81€	81€
Half Board	101€	79€	73€	73€

Hotel Kralj ****

<https://www.hotelkralj.rs/>

Hotel “Kralj” is located **600 m** to the playing hall.



Kralj ****	Single	Double	Triple	4-persons
Full Board	82€	65€	N/A	N/A
Half Board	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

Invited players who would like to change the hotel and use their personal right in other hotels (Hotel Zepter or Hotel Fontana) are entitled to do so with the surcharge of 25€ per day:

The above-mentioned prices for all hotels are also valid on the two days before arrival day and 2 days after the arrival day to ensure the same conditions for participants and their accompanying persons.

Players staying in other than official hotel are fully responsible for their daily transfers to/from playing venue.

The local tourist tax (1.70€ per person, per day) and is paid to the organizer along with other expenses.

Wellness & SPA Center is free of charge for participants and accompanying persons in all official hotels (swimming pools, spa and gym). Individuals under the age of 16 can use these services only when accompanied by an adult and during specific times.

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 October 3rd, 2025 to the following account:

Account holder: **EKOMLEK DOO KRALJEVO, Grge Jankesa 5 Street, 36000 Kraljevo**

Bank: **HALKBANK A.D. BEOGRAD, Milutina Milankovica 9e, 11070 Beograd**

IBAN: **RS35155000000007215549**

SWIFT: **CABARS22**

Reference: **WSCC2026**

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

10. Side Events

10.1. On Sunday, November 8th there will OPEN Rapid Tournament "Vrnjacka Banja Trophy" with no entry fee and with prize fund of 2.500 EUR.

10.2. At least two open Blitz FIDE rated tournaments will be organized during the Championships. All details will be announced in due time.

11. Anti-Cheating 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 Chief Arbiter will be encouraged to devise a system for conducting random checks during the tournament.

12. Medical Service

During the tournament, medical service will be provided for all participants in case that it is needed.
Players have to insure themselves against health risks and accidents for the duration of the Championship.

13. Local Information

The standard voltage in Serbia is 220 Volts.
The local currency is Dinar (RSD).

14. Visa Information

Citizens of European countries are not required to hold a visa to enter Serbia.
For participants who has citizenship of a non-European country which has to apply for Serbian visa, request for Invitation Letter must be sent the latest on **September 1st 2026**. For those participants who send request after the deadline, Serbian Chess Federation will not guarantee support for visa issuing.
Requirement for visa can be checked at:
<https://www.mfa.gov.rs/en/citizens/travel-serbia/visa-regime>

15. 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>

16. Contact Information

Official e-mail: worldsenior@fide.com
Official website: worldsenior2026.fide.com
Chairman of Organizing Committee: **Andrija Jorgic**, President of Serbian Chess Federation
Tournament Director: **IO Sasa Jevtic**, +381 63 439497 (Viber, WhatsApp)