



Regulations for the FIDE Grand Swiss Tournament 2025 (DRAFT)

1. Scope

1. 1. Governing body of the FIDE Grand Swiss Tournament (hereinafter referred to as “Grand Swiss”) is the International Chess Federation (FIDE).
1. 2. Grand Swiss shall be organised in the first half of 2025.
1. 3. FIDE Global Strategy Commission (hereinafter referred to as “GSC”) is in charge of preparing Regulations, communicating with the participants and the Organiser and conducting inspections.
1. 4. The body responsible for adopting and changing these Regulations is the FIDE Council (upon GSC’s recommendation).
1. 5. At any time, any circumstance or unforeseen situation not covered in these Regulations shall be referred to the FIDE President for the final decision.

2. Qualification for Grand Swiss

2. 1. Invitations for Grand Swiss shall be determined according to the following criteria:

A. One hundred players qualify by FIDE rating

One hundred players shall qualify by their rating. For this purpose, the FIDE rating in November 2024 FIDE Standard Rating List shall be used. In case of equality, the total number of rated games in 12 standard rating periods from December 2023 to November 2024 shall be decisive: the player with the most number of games shall qualify. If these numbers are equal, the drawing of lots shall decide.

Only players who played at least 30 rated games counted in any of the 12 standard rating periods from December 2023 to November 2024 are eligible.

B. Women’s World Champion (as at 1 March 2025).

C. Four Continent spots. Each spot shall be decided by the respective Continental President by 31 December 2024.

D. Four players nominated by the FIDE President.

2. 2. If any of the one hundred players qualified by track A ([Article 2.1](#)) declines to participate, the unallocated spot goes to the next non qualifying player from track A ([Article 2.1](#)).

If the Women’s World Champion declines to participate, her place goes to the Vice Women’s World Champion. If the Vice Women’s World Champion declines to participate, for all further replacements track A ([Article 2.1](#)) applies for this purpose.

The automatic replacements by track A are in force till 30th reserve player, after which players’ replacement and/or playing spots filling shall be subject to GSC decision.

If any of the players nominated by FIDE President/Continental Presidents decline to participate, the FIDE President/respective Continental President shall nominate another player.

2. 3. The Organiser is entitled to include five additional players of their own choice. This means there shall be a maximum of 114 players in Grand Swiss.

2. 4. The World Champion and Vice World Champion are entitled to play in Grand Swiss if they meet the criteria of one of the above tracks and shall receive the same financial terms as the other qualifiers.

3. Confirmation of participation

3. 1. The list of invited players and reserves shall be published on the FIDE website together with the players’ contract.

3. 2. It is each player’s responsibility to download a copy of the players’ contract from the FIDE website. Each player shall sign and send his/her contract to the FIDE Secretariat by email by the deadline specified in the contract. Additional contracts between the Organiser and the players may be signed if needed.

3.3. A player who does not submit his/her contract within the deadline shall be replaced according to [Article 2.2](#). FIDE may accept late contracts received after the deadline only for reasons FIDE President considers to be admissible. Players qualified as replacements shall have one week from the date their invitation was sent to return their signed contracts.

3.4. A player who signs his/her contract but withdraws shall be replaced as described in [Article 2.2](#).

3.5. Players who fail to provide a satisfactory reason for withdrawal after they have signed the players' contract, may be imposed a fine of up to USD 5,000 (five thousand) or another sanction by the FIDE Council.

4. Grand Swiss Regulations

4.1. System

Swiss system, 11 rounds.

4.2. Pairings

Pairings shall be done according to the Dutch pairing system for Swiss events ([FIDE Handbook C.04.3](#)).

4.3. Time control and default time

4.3.1. The games are played using the electronic clocks and boards approved by FIDE.

4.3.2. The time control for each game is: 100 minutes for the first 40 moves, followed by 50 minutes for the next 20 moves, followed by 15 minutes for the rest of the game with an increment of 30 seconds per move starting from move 1.

4.3.3. A player who arrives in the playing area after the actual start time of his/her game shall be charged USD 500 (five hundred), unless the Organiser decides otherwise, depending on the circumstances of the delay. A player who arrives in the playing area more than 15 minutes after the actual start time of his/her game shall lose his/her game by default, but without financial penalty, unless the Chief Arbiter decides that the delay was due to an event of force majeure.

4.4. Draw by mutual agreement

The players cannot draw a game by mutual agreement before black's 30th move. A claim for a draw before black's 30th move is permitted only through the Chief Arbiter or his/her Deputy in case of threefold repetition ([Article 9.2 of the FIDE Laws of Chess](#), see [Appendix 1.a](#)) or a stalemate.

4.5. Conditions of victory and qualification for the FIDE Candidates Tournament 2026

4.5.1. The player with the most points (1 point for each win, half a point for each draw, 0 for each loss) shall be declared the winner of the tournament. A tie is broken according to [Article 4.5.3](#).

4.5.2. The winner and the runner-up of Grand Swiss shall qualify for the FIDE Candidates Tournament 2026. If one or both these players has (-ve) already qualified to the FIDE Candidates Tournament 2026 at the moment of the beginning of Grand Swiss via different qualification track or do (-es) not need to qualify for the FIDE Candidates Tournament 2026, the qualification spot(s) shall go to the highest-placed player(s) in the final standings who has (-ve) not yet qualified to the FIDE Candidates Tournament 2026 at the moment of the beginning of Grand Swiss.

4.5.3. Tie-breaks

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

- a) Average Rating of Opponents Cut 1 (AROC 1)*;
- b) Buchholz Cut 1;
- c) Buchholz;
- d) Direct encounter between the players in tie;
- e) Drawing of lots.

* All forfeits and byes are cut from the calculation of AROC 1. If a player has one or more forfeits or byes, then no additional results are cut from the calculation of AROC 1.

All tie-breaks are calculated as described in the [FIDE Handbook C.02.13](#).

4. 6. Prizes

4. 6. 1. The minimum prize fund is 700,000 (seven hundred thousand) USD. The amount is net and cleared of any local taxes.
4. 6. 2. The prize money shall be paid by direct banker's order drawn in USD. Within fourteen working days after completion of the event and receiving a player's bank details, FIDE shall transfer the player's prize money to his/her bank account.
4. 6. 3. If a player withdraws after the start of the tournament, FIDE Council shall decide upon paying out his/her prize money depending on particular circumstances.

4. 7. Schedule

DAY	EVENT
1	Arrivals
2	Opening Ceremony & Technical Meeting
3	Round 1
4	Round 2
5	Round 3
6	Round 4
7	Round 5
8	Round 6
9	Free day
10	Round 7
11	Round 8
12	Round 9
13	Round 10
14	Round 11 & Closing Ceremony
15	Departures

The schedule may be modified only upon approval of the FIDE President.

4. 8. Travel and Accommodation

4. 8. 1. The organiser shall provide each player with either:

- (i) Half-board hotel accommodation for 14 nights in a standard room (4-star hotel minimum); or
- (ii) An Accommodation & Meals Daily Allowance of USD 150 (one hundred fifty) for a maximum of 14 nights, with the player arranging and paying for their own accommodation and meals.

4. 8. 2. The organiser shall provide the players with a travel allowance. The chess federation to which the player belongs shall determine the amount:

- USD 1,000 (one thousand) for all players belonging to a chess federation from the same Continent,
- USD 1,400 (one thousand and four hundred) for players belonging to a chess federation from the rest of the world.

4. 9. Playing venue

4. 9. 1. GSC shall ensure the playing venue and its environs meet the requirements of the Basic Guidelines For Playing Venues Of Fide Top-Level Tournaments ([FIDE Handbook C.01](#), see [Appendix 1.c](#)), amended by GSC if needed.

4. 9. 2. The playing venue shall be decorated with the FIDE flag and the flag of the host nation.

4. 9. 3. The Organiser shall provide water, coffee, tea and soft drinks free of charge for the players and the FIDE principals.

4. 9. 4. The Organiser shall provide the Press Centre and VIP room with catering services according to the contract signed between FIDE and the Organiser.

4. 10. Playing Conditions

4. 10. 1. The Anti-Cheating Protection Measures for Level 1 events shall be applied ([FIDE Handbook, A09.2](#), see [Appendix 1.b](#)).

4. 10. 2. Except with the permission of the Chief Arbiter, only the players, the Principals and stewards are allowed in the playing area. For the purposes of this clause, the Sponsor shall be treated as a Principal with the approval of the Organiser. During a game a player may communicate with an arbiter or a steward.

4. 10. 3. During a playing session, the players are forbidden to have any electronic device not specifically approved by the Chief Arbiter in the playing venue. In case of this rule violation, the player shall lose the current game.

4. 10. 4. The players are not permitted to bring into the playing venue technical and other equipment extraneous to play, which may in any way disturb or upset their opponents. The Chief Arbiter decides what constitutes extraneous equipment disturbing the opponent.

4. 10. 5. While his/her game is in progress, a player may leave the playing venue only with the permission of the Chief Arbiter and only if he/she is accompanied by one of the arbiters. In case of this rule violation, the current game shall be declared lost by the player and the Chief Arbiter has the right to disqualify the player from the tournament.

4. 10. 6. The Organiser has to fulfil the requirements of the medical protocol as per standards of the FIDE Medical Commission and host country requirements.

4. 10. 7. The tournament physician(s) shall be available for the participants for the duration of the tournament.

4. 11. Scoresheets

4. 11. 1. The Organiser shall provide scoresheets according to the specifications provided by GSC.

4. 11. 2. At the end of each game the players' original scoresheets shall be given to the Chief Arbiter, who forwards them to FIDE. Refusal of either player to sign the scoresheets shall be penalised according to [Article 12.9.](#) of the Laws of Chess. After the players have signed the scoresheets, an arbiter countersigns to confirm the results.

4. 12. Players' conduct

4. 12. 1. The dress code is strictly observed for the tournament and all the official events and press-conferences.

4. 12. 1. 1. Dress code for men: neat shirt with a collar (with or without a pullover), neat jacket/blazer, neat trousers.

4. 12. 1. 2. Dress code for women: neat shirt/blouse with a collar (with or without a pullover), neat jacket/blazer, neat trousers/skirt or dress.

4. 12. 1. 3. No players with t-shirts, jeans, shorts, sneakers/trainers, baseball caps or inappropriate dress are allowed in a playing venue. Any requests to wear national or traditional dress must be approved by GSC.

4. 12. 2. The players are required to attend the Technical Meeting. If necessary, the Chief Arbiter may call other Technical Meetings.

4. 12. 3. The players are required to make themselves available for post-game press conferences, of not more than 20 minutes duration, immediately after the game.

4. 12. 4. The players are required to be present at all official functions approved by GSC during the event including official receptions, the Opening and the Closing Ceremonies.

4. 12. 5. The tournament's winner is required to attend the final press conference after the event has ended and to provide an exclusive interview for the tournament and the FIDE websites if requested by the Press Officer or the Organiser.

4. 12. 6. The players shall strictly abide by all medical regulations approved by FIDE and/or the Organiser. The players shall be aware that the regulations are subject to change and at short notice. FIDE shall inform players about any changes as quickly as possible.

4. 12. 7. If a player fails to fulfil his/her duties listed in [Articles 4.12.1 – 4.12.6](#), he/she can be penalised by FIDE Council as follows: 5% of his/her prize money shall be forfeited to the Organiser and a further 5% to FIDE for each breach. In cases of serious misconduct, the player may be disqualified from the event.

4. 12. 8. If a player undermines the reputation of FIDE, the Grand Swiss Organiser and sponsors, other players, hosting country or city or conducts him-/herself in a manner contrary to the spirit of sportsmanship, he/she shall be penalised in accordance with the FIDE Ethics & Disciplinary Code ([FIDE Handbook A.08](#)).

4. 13. Principals

The Principals are:

- a) FIDE President;
- b) FIDE Deputy President / FIDE Director General;
- c) Chief Arbiter;
- d) Deputy Chief Arbiter;
- e) FIDE Technical Delegate-Chairman of the Appeal Committee;
- f) Fair-Play Officer;
- g) Press Officer;
- h) Member of the FIDE Medical Commission (if needed);
- i) GSC member (if needed).

4. 14. Arbiters and FIDE Fair-Play Officer

4. 14. 1. The Chief Arbiter and the FIDE Fair-Play Officer shall be appointed by GSC.

4. 14. 2. The Chief Arbiter is required to issue “Chief Arbiter’s Information” in consultation with GSC to inform details not covered by these Regulations.

4. 14. 3. During play either the Chief Arbiter, his/her Deputy or the Chief Arbiter of the FIDE Women’s Grand Swiss shall be present in the playing area.

4. 14. 4. Within one week after the end of the event the Chief Arbiter submits a report in English to GSC. The report shall contain the result of each individual game and a general description of the course of the event. If there are any difficulties, conflicts or incidents, they shall be described together with the measures taken to deal with them.

4. 15. FIDE Technical Delegate

4. 15. 1. The FIDE Technical Delegate shall be appointed by GSC.

4. 15. 2. The FIDE Technical Delegate shall ensure that:

- a. the organisation meets the required FIDE standards;
- b. all the contractual obligations are fulfilled by the Organiser.

4. 15. 3. The Organiser shall take into account recommendations of the FIDE Technical Delegate regarding issues mentioned in [Article 4.15.2](#).

4. 16. Appeals Committee

4. 16. 1. The Appeals Committee shall be appointed and act in accordance with FIDE Handbook, C11 (see [Appendix 1.d](#)).

4. 16. 2. Two members of the Appeals Committee and two reserve members shall work remotely.

4. 16. 3. The Chairman of the Appeal Committee shall also fulfil duties of FIDE Technical Delegate (see [Article 4.15](#)).

4. 16. 4. All appeals shall be accompanied by a deposit fee of USD 400 (four hundred) or the equivalent in local currency.

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4. 17. Ceremonies

4. 17. 1. The Opening Ceremony shall take place on the day prior to Round 1.

4. 17. 2. The program of the Opening Ceremony shall be approved by GSC. Cultural program and speeches totalling up to 60 minutes are usually welcome. FIDE Anthem and the Isle of Man National Anthem shall be played.

4. 17. 3. The Closing Ceremony shall take place on the day of the last round. The Organiser shall provide a trophy for the winner and medals (gold, silver, bronze) or trophies for the top three winners. Design of the trophy and the medals shall be approved by FIDE Technical Delagete. The FIDE Anthem, the Anthem of the winner’s federation and the National Anthem of the host nation shall be played.

5. Media

5. 1. Website

The Organiser is responsible for managing, updating and reviewing the official web domain which is used for the event: www/grandswiss.fide.com.

5. 2. Communications

5. 2. 1. All official written communications, in print or online form, shall identify FIDE as the Governing Body of Grand Swiss.

5. 2. 2. All official communications must use the official denomination for the event: FIDE Grand Swiss.

5. 2. 3. All pre-tournament public communications regarding the event (e.g. joint press releases from FIDE and the Organiser) shall be co-written and scheduled in coordination with FIDE's Marketing and Communications Department.

5. 3. Press Officer designated by FIDE

5. 3. 1. FIDE shall appoint a FIDE Press Officer for the event. The Organiser co-operates with the FIDE Press Officer regarding the accreditation and hospitality for journalists and media and the facilities available at any Press Centre that the Organiser chooses to provide, and assists him to establish contacts with the local media.

5. 3. 2. All content shown at www/grandswiss.fide.com shall be reviewed and approved by the Press Officer. All live images, live broadcasting (Internet TV) pictures and all the other content for the full event are carried on both official domains, plus any other web domain that has been agreed between the Organiser and GSC prior to the event. In cases of conflicting information and press statements, the views expressed by the FIDE Press Officer shall be the authentic version.

5. 3. 3. The Organiser shall warrant that their official domain is managed in a professional way and furthermore that it is capable of handling the traffic and publicity that is required for such events. Statistics of traffic and full reports on web performance shall be provided to GSC.

5. 3. 4. The Press Officer reports to the FIDE's Chief Marketing and Communications Officer.

5. 3. 5. The Press Officer is a member of the panel at any Press Conferences conducted during the event.

5. 4. Photography and video

5. 4. 1. Only photographers and camera crew expressly authorised by the Organiser (in cooperation with the Press Officer and the FIDE Chief Marketing and Communications Officer) may work in the playing venue.

5. 4. 2. The Organiser shall provide FIDE with a copy of all the video footage filmed during the event. This includes a recording of the broadcast, interviews, press conferences, and Opening and Closing Ceremonies. This footage shall be provided in a physical support: DVD, flash drive, hard drive, etc. FIDE can make use of these materials as specified in [Chapter 7](#).

5. 4. 3. Video and photo footage shall be done in accordance with the FIDE Media Regulations ([FIDE Handbook, C09](#), see [Appendix 1.e](#)).

6. Financial issues

6. 1. Before the end of the event, FIDE shall be reimbursed for its direct expenses incurred in the organisation of Grand Swiss. This shall be a fixed sum agreed in the contract between the Organiser and FIDE. This sum includes pre-expenses (inspections), stipends, traveling expenses for the FIDE Principals and other expenses mentioned in the contract.

6. 2. Stipends

The stipends to be paid to these Principals of Grand Swiss by the Organiser are:

Principal	Stipend, €
Chief Arbiter	4,770
Deputy Chief Arbiter	3,480
Fair-play Officer	3,040
Technical Delegate - Chairman of the Appeals Committee	3,910
Press Officer	3,910
Member of the FIDE Medical Commission	2,610

TOTAL	21,720
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The above Principals shall also provide their services (for no extra payment) to the FIDE Women's Grand Swiss, although that event shall have its own Chief Arbiter.

6. 3. Travel Expenses of the FIDE Principals

To be agreed in the contract between the Organiser and FIDE.

6. 4. Accommodation of the FIDE Principals

To be agreed in the contract between the Organiser and FIDE.

6. 5. Local transportation.

Transfer from and to the airport shall be provided by the Organiser.

6. 6. Personnel

The Organiser provides sufficient personnel to assist in the playing hall, any press room, any VIP room, and at ceremonies according to the agreement made with GSC.

6. 7. Medical care

6. 7. 1. The organiser shall provide emergency medical care to the players and Principals on the terms, agreed in the contract signed between FIDE and the Organiser. All the players and Principals are strongly advised to have their own travel health insurances.

6. 7. 2. The Organiser shall cover the costs related to the medical protocol (see [Article 4.10.6](#)).

6. 8. Fair-play measures

The Organiser shall cover the costs associated with implementing the fair-play regulations (see [Appendix I](#)) according to requirements of the FIDE Fair-Play Commission up to USD 5,000 (five thousand).

7. Commercial issues

7. 1. Commercial, marketing and broadcasting rights are determined by the contract signed by the Organiser and FIDE.

7. 2. Players shall not wear, use or display any apparel, footwear, accessory or other item, including but not limited to any piece of attire or any article that is of an accessory nature (*e.g.* bag, eyewear, arm bands, gloves, socks, charms, beverage bottles etc.), bearing an identification of or advertising or otherwise promoting the players' sponsors, without prior written permission by FIDE Technical Delegate.

7. 3. The income provided by Grand Swiss through admission charges goes to the Organiser.

7. 4. The Organiser shall produce a detailed budget for the event, which shall be approved by GSC.

7. 5. No proposed sponsor shall be in conflict with the regulations of the International Olympic Committee.

7. 6. The FIDE logo and the head of the corporate logo are displayed below:



The FIDE logo shall be displayed in a black colour on a white background. The text describing any event shall not be larger than twice the size of the word FIDE reproduced in the logo.

The present Regulations are governed and interpreted in accordance with the laws of Switzerland. All disputes arising from or in relation to with the Regulations shall be submitted to CAS (art. 35.1 FIDE Charter). All disputes and claims arising from or in relation to the bidding procedure and obligations of the Organiser may also be submitted to the competent court of the City of Lausanne, Canton Vaud, Switzerland, unless otherwise agreed in the contract with the Organiser.

APPENDIX 1

Useful Links

- a) **FIDE Laws of Chess taking effect from 1 January 2023** – <https://handbook.fide.com/chapter/E012023>
- b) **Anti-Cheating Protection Measures** – <https://handbook.fide.com/files/handbook/ACCProtectionMeasures.pdf>
- c) **Basic Guidelines for playing venues of FIDE Top-Level Tournaments** – <https://handbook.fide.com/chapter/C01>
- d) **Appeals Committee Procedural Rules** – <https://handbook.fide.com/chapter/AppealsCommitteeProceduralRules>
- e) **FIDE Media Regulations** – <https://handbook.fide.com/chapter/C09>