

Regulations for the FIDE “Open” World Blitz Championship 2017 & FIDE “Open” World Rapid Championship 2017



1. Frequency

The FIDE World Blitz & Rapid Championships shall be organized annually under the aegis of FIDE by a federation entrusted with the task by the General Assembly or the Presidential Board at least one year in advance. All rights for the organization of the World Blitz & Rapid Championships and the title of the World Blitz Champion or World Rapid Champion belong to FIDE.

2. Format

The events will be both Swiss pairings tournaments and will be held over two days for Blitz and three days for Rapid. The Blitz will have twenty one (21) rounds, with a single game for each round, Swiss event. The Rapid will be fifteen (15) rounds, with a single game for each round, Swiss event.

3. Participation

3.1 All players rated at least 2600 in any of the FIDE rating lists (Standard, Blitz or Rapid) from September 2017 to October 2017 are eligible to register to play in the FIDE World Blitz & Rapid Championships 2017.

3.2 The Organiser reserves the right to limit participation to a maximum of 250 players. In the case of more players registering, the selection of the players will be done by FIDE based on the average standard rating of the players for the last three months (Sep-Nov.2017)

3.3 The host country will be allowed to nominate up to a maximum of ten players not meeting the criteria of article 3.1

3.4 FIDE reserves the right to nominate up to a maximum of twenty players not meeting the criteria of article 3.1

4. Organisation

At least one month before the tournament official start, FIDE will publish the venue, hotel and all other related information.

5. Time Control

5.1 In the Blitz Championship, each player will have 3 minutes + 2 seconds additional time per move, starting from move 1.

5.2 In the Rapid Championship, each player will have 15 minutes + 10 seconds additional time per move, starting from move 1.

6. Tournament Conditions

6.1 The players are not permitted to speak to their opponents during the games. Appropriate sporting behaviour is expected from all participants and FIDE rules of conduct are to be strictly followed at all times.

6.2 During the playing session, a player may leave the playing area only with the permission of the Chief Arbiter and only if he is accompanied by one of the arbiters. During the Players' Meeting, the Chief Arbiter will specify which exact areas of the venue are considered as "playing area".

6.3 Players are required to attend the Players' Meeting on the day of the Opening Ceremony at a time to be decided by the Chief Arbiter and the Organisers. If necessary, the Chief Arbiter may call other Players' Meetings.

6.4 The draw for colours and pairings will be made in the first Players' Meeting for the two events.

6.5 Players are required to wear dark blue or black formal suits, with white shirts, either open necked or with a tie for all games. No players with jeans, t-shirts, sneakers, baseball caps, shorts or inappropriate dress will be allowed in the playing zone. Any requests to wear national or traditional dress must be approved by the Chief Arbiter.

6.6 If any player withdraws without any justifiable reason, he will forfeit his right to the prize for the tournament as well as incur further sanctions by FIDE

- 6.7 A protest against any decision must be submitted in writing to the Chairman of the Appeals Committee, immediately after the game. The decision of the Appeals Committee is final.
- 6.8 Apart from the players and principals, no other person shall be allowed in the actual playing area during the games, except with the express permission of the Chief Arbiter.
- 6.9 The players are not permitted to bring into the playing venue any electronic or technical or other equipment extraneous to play, which may in any way disturb or upset the opponent or may be in breach of the Rules of Chess. The Chief Arbiter shall decide what constitutes extraneous equipment liable to offend the opponent or may be in breach of the Rules of Chess.
- 6.10 The players shall shake hands (or shall greet each other in a normal social manner in accordance with the conventional rules of their society) before the start and after the end of each game. If a player fails to meet these requirements and after being asked to do so by the Chief Arbiter, then the player will lose the game immediately.
- 6.11 During the game, a player may talk only to an arbiter or communicate with a steward.
- 6.12 Organizers shall provide in sufficiency, free of charge, coffee, tea and soft drinks for the players and principals. It is advisable that the same offer shall apply for the press members.
- 6.13 During play either the Chief Arbiter or the Deputy Chief Arbiter must be present in the playing area.
- 6.14 Tournaments will be played according to the rules of the inadequate supervision of the Rapid play Laws of Chess (FIDE Handbook, E.I.01B Appendices, art. 1 to 4). In addition, if a player displaces the pieces during the game: for the first time he receives a warning but for the second time he will be forfeited.
- 6.15 The Chief Arbiter may, in consultation with the Chairman of Appeals Committee, the players and after the approval of the FIDE President, issue additional written regulations to lay down the exact playing hours and take care of other details not covered by these regulations.
- 6.16 Immediately after the end of the event, the Chief Arbiter shall draw up a report in the English language and send it without delay to the FIDE Secretariat. The report shall be supplemented by adding two copies of the bulletins of the event. The report shall contain the result of each individual game as well as the final standings of the event. In addition, the report shall contain a general description of the course of the event.
- 6.17 Immediately after the end of the event, the Chairman of Appeals Committee shall draw up a report in the English language and send it without delay to the FIDE Secretariat. The report shall contain an overview of the organisation, the conditions and any other matter that may be deemed relevant by the Chairman of Appeals Committee.

7. Tournament Schedule

Date		Number of rounds	Time of start of games	Other comments
Day 1	Arrival			
Day 1	Opening Ceremony		19:30	May be subject to change depending on Organisers
Day 2	Rapid	1-5	15:15	
Day 3	Rapid	6-10	15:15	
Day 4	Rapid	11-15	14:00	
Day 5	Blitz	1-11	15:15	
Day 6	Blitz	12-21	14:00	
Day 6	Closing Ceremony		21:00	May be subject to change depending on Organisers
Day 7	Departure			

8. Principals

8.1 The FIDE President after consultation with the WCOC shall appoint the following FIDE Principals. These are:

- FIDE Representative who will be Chairman of Appeals Committee;
- Two Members of Appeals Committee;
- Chief Arbiter and his Deputies (3) and Arbiters;
- FIDE Press Officer and his/her Assistant;

8.2 The organizing federation shall appoint an adequate number of Assistant Arbiters (at least one Arbiter per 10 matches) to ensure that all games are reasonably supervised.

8.3 All principals will be hosted on a full board basis in at least a four star hotel by the organisers for the duration of their stay.

8.4 The stipends for the World Blitz and Rapid Championships (Open and Women combined) for the principals are as follows: Chief Arbiter (3,500 USD), Deputy Chief Arbiter (3,000 USD each), Chairman of Appeals Committee (3,500 USD), Members of Appeals Committee (2,500 USD each) Press Officer (2,500 USD) and Assistant Press Officer (2,000 USD).

8.5 FIDE Principals will also be compensated by the organisers for their travel expenses up to a maximum of 1,000 USD if travelling from Europe or Asia and up to 1,200 USD if travelling from African or American continent for economy class tickets. Any travelling costs for accompanying persons will be the Principals' responsibility.

9. Arrangements for the Playing Hall

9.1 The WCOC shall ensure the playing hall and its environs meet the requirements of the FIDE Regulations for the Organization of Top Level Tournaments (as per FIDE Handbook).

9.2 The playing venue shall be decorated with the FIDE flag, IOC flag, the flag of the host nation and the sponsors' brandings.

9.3 After the WCOC agrees with the Organisers on the arrangements in respect of the tournament hall, facilities, accommodation and meals, transportation, telecommunication, ceremonies, no objections from the participants shall be acceptable.

10. Interviews, media and PR functions

10.1 All players have to cooperate reasonably with the media. The players are required to make themselves available for short interviews immediately after each game. In general, players shall be available for the daily press conference. General interviews with them have to be arranged through the FIDE Press Officer, the same day or the next day after the end of the event. All winners and medalists are obliged to attend the final press conference after the event has ended and to provide an exclusive interview for the FIDE website, if requested by the FIDE Press Officer.

10.2 Players violating article 10.1 will be subjected to the penalties mentioned in article 15.1, applied by the FIDE Press Officer.

10.3 Players are required to be present at all official functions approved by FIDE President or his representative during the Tournament including official receptions and the opening and closing ceremonies.

10.4 Only photographers and camera crews expressly authorized by the Organising Committee and the FIDE Press Officer may work in the playing venue.

11. Financial Regulations and Prizes

11.1 A registration fee of 100 USD shall be paid to the Organiser by accompanying persons. All participants must register by not later than 25 November 2017.

11.2 The organising federation shall award a gold medal to each of the winners of the title World Blitz Champion and World Rapid Champion, silver medals to the players who respectively took the second place and bronze medal to the player who took the third place in the Blitz and Rapid events. The winner of each category will have his/her name included on a trophy which will be retained by the organizers.

11.3 The organising federation shall award money prizes for the Championships, net of any local taxes, as follows:

PLACE	MEN RAPID	MEN BLITZ
1	\$ 250,000	\$ 250,000
2	\$ 125,000	\$ 125,000
3	\$ 75,000	\$ 75,000
4	\$ 50,000	\$ 50,000
5	\$ 40,000	\$ 40,000
6	\$ 35,000	\$ 35,000
7	\$ 30,000	\$ 30,000
8	\$ 24,000	\$ 24,000
9	\$ 18,000	\$ 18,000
10	\$ 15,000	\$ 15,000
11	\$ 12,500	\$ 12,500
12	\$ 11,000	\$ 11,000
13	\$ 9,000	\$ 9,000
14	\$ 8,000	\$ 8,000
15	\$ 7,000	\$ 7,000
16	\$ 6,000	\$ 6,000
17	\$ 5,000	\$ 5,000
18	\$ 4,500	\$ 4,500
19	\$ 4,000	\$ 4,000
20	\$ 3,500	\$ 3,500
21	\$ 3,000	\$ 3,000
22	\$ 2,500	\$ 2,500
23	\$ 2,000	\$ 2,000
24	\$ 1,500	\$ 1,500
25	\$ 1,500	\$ 1,500
26	\$ 1,500	\$ 1,500
27	\$ 1,500	\$ 1,500
28	\$ 1,500	\$ 1,500
29	\$ 1,500	\$ 1,500
30	\$ 1,000	\$ 1,000
TOTAL	\$ 750,000	\$ 750,000

All prize money shall be transferred to the FIDE bank account at least one month prior to the start of the event.

11.4 A payment of 20% from the above total prize fund is made to FIDE.

11.5 All monetary prizes are shared equally, in cases of any tied position/s.

11.6 The tie break system (for medals only) is as follows:

- I. Direct Encounters (applies only if all tied players have played each other)
- II. ARCO (Average Rating of Opponents, including own rating, Cut 1)
- III. Buchholz Cut 1
- IV. Greater number of games with Black (unplayed games counted as White)

If there is a tie for the 1st place, the top 2 players according to the first eligible tie break criterion will play a play-off match.

The match will include two (2) games played with a time control of 3 minutes plus 2 seconds increment after each move. There will be a drawing of lots to decide which player will start with white.

If the score is still level, the players shall play one (1) sudden death game. The player who wins the drawing of lots may choose the color. The player with the white pieces shall receive 5 minutes; the player with the black pieces shall receive 4 minutes whereupon, after the 60th move, both players shall receive an increment of 2 seconds per move starting from move 61. In case of a draw the player with the black pieces is declared the winner.

11.7 Accommodation & Travel Expenses

a) Accommodation with full board is offered by the organisers for players with an active rating of:

* 2720 and over in the last three FIDE rating lists of blitz or rapid chess (October 2017, September 2017 or November 2017) or

* 2670 and over in the last three FIDE rating lists for standard time controls, (October 2017, September 2017 or November 2017).

b) The players with conditions will also be compensated by the organisers for their travel expenses up to a maximum of 1,000 USD if travelling from Europe or Asia and up to 1,200 USD if travelling from African or American continent for economy class tickets. Any travelling costs for accompanying persons will be the Players' responsibility.

11.8 All other players will be responsible for their travel and accommodation expenses. The organiser will offer accommodation alternatives and prices through their website.

12. Opening & Closing Ceremony

12.1 An Opening Ceremony shall take place and all participants are required to take part.

12.2 The Closing Ceremony shall take place according to schedule. Any player who does not attend the Closing Ceremony forfeits his prize award. The winner of each category will have his/her name included on a trophy which will be retained by the organizers. The FIDE Anthem, the anthem of the winner's country and the anthem of the host country shall be played.

13. Appeals Committee

13.1 No member of the Appeals Committee shall sit in judgment in a dispute involving a player or party from his Federation except where the dispute is between two players or two parties from his Federation.

13.2 All protests must be submitted in writing to the Appeals Committee not more than 15 minutes after the relevant playing session, or the particular infringement complained against.

13.3 The Committee may decide on the following matters within a reasonable time frame:

- a) an appeal against a decision by an arbiter,
- b) a protest against a player's behaviour,
- c) a complaint alleging false interpretation of the regulations,
- d) a request for the interpretation of specific regulations,
- e) a protest or complaint against any participant, or
- f) all other matters which the Committee considers important.

13.4 If possible, the Committee shall reach a decision not more than 15 minutes after the submission of a protest. The appeals process shall include written representations and a written decision. The Committee shall endeavour to find binding solutions that are within the true spirit of the FIDE motto, Gens Una Sumus.

13.5 Each protest must be accompanied by a deposit fee of USD 500 or a written statement that this fee can be deducted from the prize fund if the protest is rejected. If the protest is accepted, the fee shall be returned. If the protest is rejected, then in this case, FIDE reserves the right to withhold the deposit fee.

13.6 The decision of the Appeals Committee arising from any dispute in respect of these regulations shall be final.

14. Payment of Prize Money and Stipends

14.1 The prize fund and stipends shall be paid by direct bank transfer in US Dollars from FIDE's bankers UBS, Lausanne.

14.2 FIDE shall not be responsible if any national tax has to be deducted from the prize money or for any tax obligation of the participants in their respective countries.

14.3 At any time in the course of the application of these regulations, any grounds that are not covered or any unforeseen event shall be referred to the President of FIDE for final decision.

15. Penalties

15.1 Should a player be in breach of conduct of any of these regulations, then the player may be subject to an automatic penalty, by FIDE, of USD 1,000 for any instance of breach.

15.2 Should a player be in repeated breach of any of these regulations, FIDE reserves the right to expel the player from the tournament and subject the player to an automatic fine of USD 2,500. In this case, the expelled player will not have any right to any prize money, irrespective of his standing at the time of expulsion.

15.3 Should a player withdraw from the tournament without proper justification to the WCOC, then an automatic penalty of USD 5,000 will be imposed by FIDE on the player and the player may be excluded from the next World Blitz or Rapid Championships.