



Regulations for the FIDE Women's World Cup 2021

1. Scope

1. 1. The FIDE Women's World Cup 2021 (hereinafter referred to as WWCup) is organised in the second half of 2021.
1. 2. Governing Body is the International Chess Federation (FIDE).
1. 3. FIDE Global Strategy Commission (hereinafter referred to as GSC) is in charge for preparing regulations, communicating with the Organiser and the participants, conducting inspections.
1. 4. The body responsible for adopting and changing these Regulations is the FIDE Council, upon recommendation by GSC.
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.
1. 6. The Organiser undertakes to fulfil all the financial requirements, including an organisational fee to FIDE in an amount of 863 625 USD.

2. Qualification

2. 1. Players qualify for WWCup by the following paths:

- I. Winner, runner up and two (2) other semi-finalists of the Women's World Championship 2018 – four (4) players.
- II. World Junior Girl Champions U-20 of 2018 & 2019 – two (2) players.
- III. Qualifiers from the Women's Continental Championships and Zonals (see Annex 2) – fifty-one (51) players:

Europe: 28
Americas: 8
Asia: 12
Africa: 3.

- a) Continental Championships and Zonals 2018.
- b) Continental Championships and Zonals 2019.

- IV. Highest rated players from the average of the twelve (12) FIDE rating lists - five (5) players, who have not qualified by paths from I to III.

For the purpose of deciding the five (5) qualifiers by rating, the average Elo rating from the twelve (12) standard FIDE rating lists from August 2019 to July 2020 is used. In case of equality, two decimals are taken into consideration. If the numbers are still equal then the total number of rated games in all 12 standard rating periods is decisive: the player who has played more games qualifies.

A player who appears inactive at least once in the twelve standard FIDE rating lists from August 2019 to July 2020 is not eligible.

- V. Thirty-nine (39) Federations are selected according to the average rating of their five (5) highest rated women players in the December 2020 FRL (not more than 15 per Continent). These Federations must nominate any women player of their choice who is registered to their Federation by June 5th, 2021 – thirty-nine (39) players.
- VI. Nominee of the FIDE President – one (1) player.
- VII. Nominee of the Organiser – one (1) player.

2. 2. All players qualified by paths I or II described in Article 2.1. are not counted for qualification purpose in the events III a).

2. 3. All players qualified by one or more paths from I to III a) described in Article 2.1 are not counted for qualification purpose in the events III b).

2. 4. If any replacements are needed including due to a withdrawal or a refusal of participation, they are done as follows:

- a. Qualifiers by paths I, II and IV are replaced using the procedure described in Article 2.1, path IV.
- b. Qualifiers by paths III (Article 2.1.) are replaced from their respective events. In Zonal Tournaments a replacement must have scored at least 50% of the maximum possible score, otherwise the spot goes to the respective Continental Championship.

3. Confirmation of Participation

- 3.1.** Each player receives her contract by email. She may also download her contract from the FIDE website. Each player signs and sends her contract to the FIDE Secretariat by the registered email before the fixed deadline indicated in the email sent to each player and announced on the FIDE website. Additional contracts between the Organiser and the players may be signed if needed.
- 3.2.** A player who does not submit her contract before the deadline is replaced according to Article 2.4. (FIDE may accept late contracts received after the deadline only for reasons GSC considers to be admissible).
- 3.3.** A player who signs her contract but withdraws is replaced as described in Article 2.4.
- 3.4.** No player that withdraws after the pairings are announced is replaced (see Article 4.5.1).
- 3.5.** A player who fails to provide a satisfactory reason for withdrawal, after she has signed the player's contract, may be sanctioned by the FIDE Council.

4. Tournament Regulations

4.1. Format & System

Knock-out tournament, seven (7) rounds. All rounds are played with two (2) games matches.

Round 1:	78 players
Round 2 (39 winners of Round 1 + 25 top seeds):	64 players
Round 3:	32 players
Round 4:	16 players
Round 5:	8 players
Round 6:	4 players
Round 7:	Final Match for 3 rd place
	2 players 2 players

The pairing system is described in Article 4.5.

4.2. Travel and Accommodation

- 4.2.1.** All players pay their own cost of travel, accommodation and meals for the duration of their stay.
- 4.2.2.** The Organiser offers accommodation options. For security and administrative reasons, all participants are expected to stay in the officially designated hotel(s).

4.3. Playing venue

- 4.3.1.** GSC ensures the playing hall and its surrounding areas meet the requirements of the FIDE Regulations for the organisation of Top-level Tournaments (FIDE Handbook C.01).
- 4.3.2.** The playing venue is decorated with the FIDE flag, the IOC flag, the flags of the host and the participating nations.
- 4.3.3.** The Organiser provides, free of charge, coffee, tea and soft drinks for the players, the principals, VIPs and accredited media.

4.4. Schedule

DAY	EVENT	
Day 1	Arrivals, Opening Ceremony & Technical Meeting	
Day 2	Round 1	Game 1
Day 3		Game 2
Day 4		Tie-break

Day 5	Round 2	Game 1
Day 6		Game 2
Day 7		Tie-break
Day 8	Round 3	Game 1
Day 9		Game 2
Day 10		Tie-break
Day 11	Free Day	
Day 12	Round 4	Game 1
Day 13		Game 2
Day 14		Tie-break
Day 15	Round 5	Game 1
Day 16		Game 2
Day 17		Tie-break
Day 18	Free Day	
Day 19	Round 6	Game 1
Day 20		Game 2
Day 21		Tie-break
Day 22	Final & Match for 3 rd place	Game 1
Day 23		Game 2
Day 24		Tie-break & Closing Ceremony
Day 25	Departures	

4. 5. Pairings

4. 5. 1. Pairings are announced not later than thirty (30) days before the beginning of WWCup.

4. 5. 2. For purposes of pairings the players are ranked according to the most recent FIDE Standard Rating List as per the moment when pairings are announced. Where two or more players have the same rating, the player with the bigger number of games played during the period covered by the list is higher seeded. In case of equal number, the order is decided by draw of lots. If she enters, the reigning World Champion is seeded number one.

4. 5. 3. The players participating in Round 1 are those ranked from number 26 to 103. Pairings follow the principle of top half vs. lower half reversed.

Match 1.1: P (player) 26 vs P 103,

Match 1.2: P 27 vs P 102,

....

Match 1.39: P 64 vs P 65.

Thus, the highest ranked player of the top half plays the lowest ranked player of the bottom half. The second ranked player of the top half plays the penultimate ranked player of the bottom half. And so on.

4. 5. 4. The players participating in Round 2 are the winners of Round 1 and the twenty-five (25) highest ranked players. Pairings follow the principle of top half vs. lower half reversed.

Match 2.1: P 1 vs Match 1.39 winner,

Match 2.2: P 2 vs Match 1.38 winner,

....

Match 2.32: Match 1.7 winner vs Match 1.8 winner.

4. 5. 5. For Rounds 3 to 7, pairings follow the same procedure as in Article 4.5.4. If the lower ranked player wins any match, she assumes automatically the position of her eliminated opponent.

4. 6. Drawing of colours

4. 6. 1. The draw of colours for Round 1 is done during the Opening Ceremony. In Round 1 the higher rated players of odd matches (match 1.1 of the player seeded twenty-sixth, match 1.3 of the player seeded twenty-eighth etc...) and lower rated players of even Matches (match 1.2 of the player seeded twenty-seventh, match 1.4 of the player seeded twenty-ninth etc...) have the same colour.

4. 6. 2. In the first game of Round 2, each winner of Round 1 has the colour opposite to the colour that in her previous match the higher seeded player had in the first game. Thus, if the lower seeded player wins any match, she assumes automatically in the next round the colour position of her eliminated opponent.

4. 6. 3. For Rounds 3-6 and the Final the procedure described in Article 4. 6. 2. is applied.

4. 6. 4. In the Match for 3rd place a higher seeded player has in the first game the colour opposite to the colour she had in the first game in Round 6.

4. 6. 5. The draw of colours for tie-breaks is described in Article 4.10.

4. 7. Time control

4. 7. 1. The games are played using the electronic clocks and boards approved by FIDE.

4. 7. 2. The time control for each standard game is: 90 minutes for the first 40 moves, followed by 30 minutes for the rest of the game with an increment of 30 seconds per move starting from move 1.

4. 7. 3. In case if a player arrives at the chessboard with a delay of up to 15 minutes from the actual start of the game, she should be charged of three hundred (300) US dollars deducted from her prize money. In case of delay of more than 15 minutes, the player loses the game (without financial penalty).

4. 8. 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.

4. 9. Conditions of victory and qualification to the FIDE Women's Candidates Tournament 2022.

4. 9. 1. In any match, the player who scores more points than her opponent in the two standard games is the winner of the match. If the scores are even a tie is broken according to Article 4.10. below.

4. 9. 2. The top three players qualify to the FIDE Women's Candidates Tournament to be held in the first half of 2022.

If GM Ju Wenjun, or/and GM Goryachkina, or/and the two players qualified to the FIDE Women's Candidates Tournament 2022 via the FIDE Women's Grand Prix Series 2019-2020 is(are) among the top three players of WWCup, then the reserved place(s) is(are) awarded, in order of priority:

- to the 4th place of WWCup;

- to other qualification events in accordance with the FIDE Women's Candidates Tournament 2022 Regulations.

4. 10. Tie-breaks

4. 10. 1. If the score is level after the stipulated number of standard games, after a new drawing of colours done immediately after Game 2, two (2) tie break games are played with time control of 25 minutes for each player + 10 seconds increment per move, starting from move 1.

4. 10. 2. If the score is level after the games in paragraph 4.10.1., then after a new drawing of colours, two (2) games are played with time control of 10 minutes for each player + 10 seconds increment per move, starting from move 1.

4. 10. 3. If the score is level after the games in paragraph 4.10.2., then after a new drawing of colours, two (2) games are played with time control of 5 minutes for each player + 3 seconds increment per move, starting from move 1.

4. 10. 4. If the score is still level after the games in paragraph 4.10.3., then one (1) sudden death game is played. The player who wins the drawing of lots may choose the colour. The player with the white pieces receives 5 minutes; the player with the black pieces receives 4 minutes whereupon; after move 60, both players 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 of the match.

4. 10. 5. The players cannot draw any tie-break game by mutual agreement before black's 30th move. The moves records should be provided by an Arbiter at player's request. A claim for a draw before black's 30th move is permitted only through the arbiter in case of threefold repetition.

4. 11. Prizes

4. 11. 1. Distribution of prizes in USD:

Round	Number of Players	Prize	Sum of Prizes per Round
Round 1	39	3,750	146,250
Round 2	32	5,000	160,000
Round 3	16	6,750	108,000
Round 4	8	9,500	76,000
Round 5	4	14,000	56,000
4 th place	1	20,000	20,000
3 rd place	1	25,000	25,000
Runner-up	1	35,000	35,000
Winner	1	50,000	50,000
TOTAL	103		676,250

4. 11. 2. 20% of each prize is retained by FIDE.

4. 11. 3. The prize money is paid by direct banker's order drawn in USD. Within fourteen (14) working days after completion of the event and reception of player's bank details, FIDE transfers players' prize money to her bank account.

4. 11. 4. If a player withdraws after the start of the tournament, the FIDE Council decides upon paying out her prize money depending on particular circumstances.

4. 11. 5. Although FIDE endeavours to sign an agreement with the Organiser stating that the prizes are net and free of all local taxes, FIDE is not responsible for any national local tax deducted from the prize money. FIDE shall provide all necessary assistance to the players if the Organiser acts to the contrary.

4. 12. Playing Conditions

4. 12. 1. The fair-play measures are applied according to the FIDE anti-cheating regulations for the top official events.

4. 12. 2. Except with the permission of the Chief Arbiter, only the players, the principals and stewards are allowed in the playing area. A player may communicate with an arbiter or a steward.

4. 12. 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 loses the current game.

4. 12. 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. 12. 5. During the playing session, a player may leave a playing venue only with the permission of the Chief Arbiter and only if she is accompanied by one of the arbiters. In case of this rule violation, the Chief Arbiter may declare the current game lost by the player.

4. 12. 6. The Organiser has to fulfil the requirements of the medical protocol as per standards of the FIDE Medical commission.

4. 12. 7. The anti-doping test procedure is regulated by the contract between FIDE and the Organiser.

4. 13. Scoresheets

4. 13. 1. The Organiser provide scoresheets according to the specifications provided by GSC.

4. 13. 2. At the end of each game the players' original scoresheets are to be given to the Chief Arbiter, who shall forward them to FIDE. Refusal of either player to sign the scoresheets may be penalized according to Article 12.9 of the Laws of Chess. After the players have signed the scoresheets, the Arbiter countersigns to confirm the results.

4. 14. Players conduct

4. 14. 1. The dress code is strictly observed.

4. 14. 1. 1. Dress code: dark blue or black formal trouser/skirt suits with white blouse for all games and official functions.

- 4. 14. 1. 2.** No players with t-shirts, jeans, shorts, sneakers, baseball caps or inappropriate dress are allowed in the playing venue. Any requests to wear national or traditional dress must be approved by GSC.
- 4. 14. 2.** The players are required to attend the Technical Meeting. If necessary, the Chief Arbiter may call other Technical Meetings.
- 4. 14. 3.** The players are required to be present at all official functions approved by GSC during the event including the Opening Ceremony and official receptions.
- 4. 14. 4.** The players are expected to co-operate with the media. The players are required to make themselves available for short interviews immediately after each game.
- 4. 14. 5.** The players shall be available for the daily press conference.
- 4. 14. 6.** The finalists and the participants of the match for 3rd place are required to attend the Closing Ceremony.
- 4. 14. 7.** The winner is obliged to attend the final press conference after the event has ended and to provide an exclusive interview for the tournament and FIDE website, if requested by the FIDE Press Officer.
- 4. 14. 8.** If a player fails to fulfil her duties listed in Articles 4.14.1 – 4.14.7, undermines the reputation of FIDE, the WWCup Organiser and sponsors, other players, hosting country or city or conducts herself in a manner contrary to the spirit of sportsmanship or the FIDE Code of Ethics, she shall be penalized as follows: 5% of 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. Such decisions can be taken and/or approved by the FIDE Council.

4. 15. Principals

The Principals are:

FIDE President;
FIDE Deputy President;
Chief Arbiter;
Deputy Chief Arbiter;
Four (4) Match Arbiters;
Fair-Play Officer;
FIDE Technical Delegate-Chairman of the Appeal Committee and two (2) other members;
Member of the FIDE Medical Commission;
FIDE Press Officer;
GSC member.

4. 16. Arbiters

- 4. 16. 1.** The Chief Arbiter, the Deputy Chief Arbiter, the Fair-Play Officer and the Match Arbiters are appointed by FIDE.
- 4. 16. 2.** Four (4) Match Arbiters are required for Rounds 1 and 2; two (2) Match Arbiters are required for Rounds 3 and 4.
- 4. 16. 3.** As far as possible, in each match no Match Arbiter belongs to the same federation as either of the players. Exception: if both players are members of the same federation, a Match Arbiter may also belong to this federation.
- 4. 16. 4.** The organiser appoints a necessary number of Assistant Arbiters to ensure the adequate supervision of all tie-break matches -. one (1) Assistant Arbiter per match.
- 4. 16. 5.** During play either the Chief Arbiter or his/her Deputy must be present in the playing area.
- 4. 16. 6.** The Deputy Chief Arbiter performs also functions of the Pairings Officer.
- 4. 16. 7.** Within one (1) week after the end of the event the Chief Arbiter submits a report in English to GSC. The report contains the result of each individual game as well as the final result of each match and also 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. 17. Appeals Committee

- 4. 17. 1.** GSC appoints the Chairman and the two (2) other members of the Appeals Committee, all from different Federations.

4. 17. 2. A member of the Appeals Committee cannot sit in judgement in a dispute involving one (1) player from his/her Federation. If both players involved in a dispute are from the same federation that one or two members of the Appeal Committee, then all three (3) members of the Appeal Committee sit in judgment.

4. 17. 3. All appeals and protests must be submitted in writing to the Appeals Committee not more than two (2) hours after the relevant standard game, or the particular infringement complained against, and not more than fifteen (15) minutes after any of tie-break games.

4. 17. 4. All appeals and protests must be accompanied by a deposit fee of five hundred (500) USD or the equivalent in local currency. If the appeal or the protest is accepted, the fee shall be returned. If the protest is rejected, the fee may be forfeited to FIDE.

4. 17. 5. The Appeal Committee may decide on the following matters:

- a) appeal against a decision by an arbiter,
- b) protest against a player's behaviour,
- c) any appeal which the Committee considers relevant.

4. 17. 6. The Appeals Committee endeavours to find binding solutions that are within the true spirit of the FIDE motto, Gens Una Sumus.

4. 17. 7. The Appeals Committee endeavours to make a decision within two (2) hours after submission of a protest.

4. 17. 8. The written decision of the Appeals Committee arising from any dispute in respect of these regulations is final.

4. 17. 9. Within one (1) week after the end of the event the Chairman of the Appeals Committee submits a report in English to GSC.

4. 18. FIDE Press Officer

4. 18. 1. The Organiser is responsible for managing, updating and reviewing the official web domain which is used for the event: wwwcup.minsk2021.fide.com. All content is reviewed and approved by the FIDE Press Officer. All live images, live broadcasting (Internet TV) pictures and all the other content for the full event details are carried on the official domain. The Organiser shall not develop any other website. In cases of conflicting information and press statements, the views expressed by the Press Officer is the authentic version.

4. 18. 2. All activities of both FIDE and the Organiser identify FIDE being the Governing Body of WWCup. The Organiser warrants that the official domain for the event is managed in a professional way and furthermore that it is capable of handling the traffic and publicity that is required for such event. Statistics of traffic and full reports on web performance are provided by the FIDE Press Officer to both GSC and the Organiser.

4. 18. 3. The Organiser co-operates with the Press Officer concerning the accreditation and hospitality for journalists and media and the facilities available at the Press Centre.

4. 18. 4. The Press Officer is a member of the panel at Press Conferences conducted during the event.

4. 19. Photography and Television

4. 19. 1. Only photographers and camera crew expressly authorized by the Press Officer or FIDE's Chief Communications Officer may work in the playing venue.

4. 19. 2. The use of flash is not allowed. An exception could be made only if the particularities of the venue force the photographers to stay more than six (6) meters away from the players. Even in those exceptional circumstances, it is restricted to the first five (5) minutes of standard games, the first three (3) minutes of rapid games and the first minute of blitz games.

4. 19. 3. Television cameras must be unobtrusive and may only be used if the Chief Arbiter deems their use to be unobtrusive.

4. 20. Ceremonies

4. 20. 1. The Opening Ceremony takes place the day prior to the first round.

4. 20. 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 Anthem of the hosting nation are played.

4. 20. 3. The Closing Ceremony takes place on the last playing day. FIDE trophy for the winner and FIDE medals – gold, silver,

bronze, for the top three (3) winners of WWCup are provided by the Organiser. The trophy and the medals are approved by GSC. The FIDE Anthem, the Anthem of the winner's nation and the Anthem of the hosting nation are played.

5. Financial issues

5. 1. Before the end of the event, FIDE is reimbursed for its direct expenses incurred in the organisation of WWCup. This is a fixed amount agreed in the contract between the Organiser and FIDE. This amount includes pre-expenses (inspections), stipends, traveling expenses for the Principals and other expenses mentioned in the contract.

5. 2. Stipends

The stipends to be paid to the Principals by the Organiser are (in USD):

Chief Arbiter:	6,600
Deputy Chief Arbiter:	4,800
Two (2) Match Arbiters (R1 through R4)	2,100 each
Five (5) Match Arbiters (R1 through R2)	1,100 each
Fair-Play Officer (R1 through R5)	3,000
FIDE Technical Delegate-Chairman of the Appeal Committee	5,400
Two (2) Members of the Appeals Committee	3,600 each
Member of the FIDE Medical Commission	3,600
FIDE Press Officer:	5,400
Other stipends	5,000
TOTAL:	50,700

5. 3. Travel Expenses of the FIDE Principals

The FIDE President has the right to business class travel by air, sea or rail, at the Organiser's expense. If other travel conditions are not specified in the contract signed by the Organiser and FIDE, all other Principals shall be compensated by the Organiser for their travel expenses up to a maximum of one thousand one hundred (1,100) USD if travelling from the same continent, up to one thousand five hundred (1,500) USD if travelling from another continent.

5. 4. Accommodation of the FIDE Principals

Accommodation with full board in a suite in a 4-5-star hotel is to be offered by the Organiser for the FIDE President. Accommodation with full board in a standard room in the same hotel is to be offered by the Organiser for each Principal. Extra expenses are covered by the Organiser only for the FIDE President.

5. 5. Local transportation

Transfer from and to the airport is provided by the Organiser, if necessary. For the FIDE President, a chauffeur-driven car, for the other Principals, a number of cars is made available; their use depends on the position of the hotels, playing hall and media center. Alternatively, a daily allowance in local currency may be provided, the amount to be agreed between the Organiser and GSC. Local transport is also provided for the players to official functions if necessary.

5. 6. Personnel and assistant arbiters

5. 6. 1. The Organiser provides sufficient personnel to assist in the playing hall, press room, VIP room, and at ceremonies according to the agreement made with GSC.

5. 6. 2. FIDE and the Organiser appoint a necessary number of Assistant Arbiters according to Article 4.16.4.

5. 7. Fair-play measures

The Organiser covers all the costs required for Fair-Play measures, excluding all the expenses for the Fair-Play Officer.

5.8. Commercial rights cost

The Organiser covers an additional cost of commercial rights of the tournament in an amount of 136 675 USD.

6. Commercial issues

6. 1. FIDE, or its appointed commercial agency, retains all commercial and media rights of WWCup, including internet. The right as described here can be granted by FIDE to the Organiser.

6. 2. The radio and television rights, including photo, video and film rights, shall belong to FIDE or its appointed agency. The right as described here can be granted by FIDE to the Organiser.

6. 3. FIDE has the exclusive rights for live games transmission on Internet. FIDE provides to the Organiser the signal for online game display in the different function rooms as agreed between the parties. This right as described here can be granted by FIDE to the Organiser.

6. 4. FIDE has the right to enter into advertisement agreements either with the Organiser or Sponsors of the event requiring players to wear attire with the branding of sponsors. 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 or its commercial agency.

6. 5. The income provided by WWCup through admission charges goes to the Organiser.

6. 6. The Organiser draws up a budget as detailed as possible. This is subject to approval of GSC.

6. 7. No proposed sponsor is in conflict with the regulations of the International Olympic Committee.

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



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

6. 9. The event title of the tournament is represented below. The corporate logo should include the above on top and the text in any kind of printed or electronic media must not be larger than twice the size of the word FIDE reproduced in the logo.



Women's World Cup 2021

ANNEX 1

WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP TECHNICAL REGULATIONS

(FIDE Laws of Chess)

The FIDE Laws of Chess are Annex 1, as valid since 1 January 2018 and published on the FIDE website:

<https://handbook.fide.com/chapter/E012018>

ANNEX 2

Qualifying events for the FIDE Women's World Chess Cup

The Zonals and Continental Championships serve for qualifying events for WWCup. They are finished before July 1st 2020. The Continents, in co-operation with GSC, decide on the format and the maximum number of participants per country including qualifiers per country. No double rounds are allowed in Continental Championships. If the Continental Championship cannot be organised by the Continents, then FIDE organises the Championship using the prize fund allocated to the respective Continent, without necessarily distributing prizes to the players.

1. Zonal Tournaments

1. 1. Zonals can be organised by the Continents according to their regulations that have to be approved by the FIDE Council.

1. 2. Where a Continent decides to have zonal tournaments for qualification to WWCup, the number of zonal qualifiers shall be restricted to the approved figure by zone; the extra qualification places for each Continent shall be given to the Continental Championship to determine the remaining qualifiers to the WWCup.

1. 3. All the Zonal qualifiers, as well as the number of players eligible by country to participate in each zonal, can participate in their Continental Championship with their full board expenses covered by the Organiser. The extra players by country as determined by each Continent are responsible for their expenses. This applies only in those Continents that hold Zonals and Continental Championships.

2. Continental Championships

2. 1. The Continents, through their respective Boards and in co-operation with FIDE, organise Continental Championships.

2. 2. FIDE guarantees a minimum total prize fund of USD 15,000 for the Continental Championships divided among the Continents, as follows:

1. Americas	5,000 USD
2. Asia	5,000 USD
3. Africa	5,000 USD

Total: 15,000 USD

To qualify for the grant of the prize money contributed by FIDE for each Continental Championship, each Continent must show proof of additional sponsorship money it has raised for the prize fund.

The Continent receives 20% from any additional prize fund at the Continental level.

Additional financial support can be granted to each Continent according to a separate agreement between FIDE and a respective Continent.

3. Tie-break

The tie-break criteria for Swiss-system events of the Women's World Championship Cycle are the following (in order of priority):

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

** Average Rating of Opponents, excluding the lowest-rated opponent.*

*** Buchholz score reduced by the lowest score of the opponents.*