



CHESS TOURNAMENT

ALMATY

REGION OPEN

QONAEV CUP

03.08 – 12.08.2025





Approved By
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Executive Director
Kazakhstan Chess Federation



REGULATIONS
of the Almaty Region Open. Qonaev CUP 2025
International Chess Championship
(3rd stage of the Kazakhstan Chess Cup 2025)

1. General Provisions

1.1. The Almaty Region Open. Qonaev CUP 2025 international chess championship ("Tournament") is held in accordance with the Kazakhstan Chess Federation's (KazChess) schedule of sporting events to:

- promote chess in Kazakhstan and Almaty Region;
- develop professional chess in Kazakhstan;
- enhance the skills of Kazakhstan's adult, youth and children's national teams;
- select candidates qualifying for the Final of the Kazakhstan Chess Cup 2025.

2. Organising Committee

2.1. The Kazakhstan Chess Federation (KazChess) is responsible for organising the Tournament, with support from the Ministry of Tourism and Sports of the Republic of Kazakhstan and the Almaty Region Department of Physical Culture and Sports.

2.2. The Tournament Director and Arbiter Panel, approved by the Presidium of KazChess, shall oversee the conduct of the Tournament.

3. Dates and Venue

3.1. Dates: 3 August (*arrival*) – 13 August (*departure*) 2025.

3.2. Venue: to be located in Almaty Region, near Almaty. The address and other venue details will be provided on KazChess's official website as soon as confirmed. Arrival airport - Almaty International Airport (ALA), Kazakhstan.

4. Tournaments and Their Conditions

4.1. The championship shall consist of three tournaments ("the Tournaments"):

- **Masters** Tournament;
- **Challengers** Tournament;
- **Open** Tournament.

4.2. An additional Category B blitz tournament may be held as part of the championship.

4.3. The regulations of the additional tournament will be published separately.

4.4. The Tournaments shall be rated by FIDE.

4.5. The Tournaments shall be played over 9 rounds using the Swiss system, in accordance with FIDE rules.

4.6. Pairings shall be generated using the Swiss Manager programme.

- 4.1. Time control: Classical 90+30 (90 minutes per game with a 30-second increment per move starting from move one).
- 4.7. A player arriving more than 30 minutes late for a round shall be forfeited.
- 4.8. Draw offers are not permitted before move 30.
- 4.9. Anti-cheating measures shall be implemented in line with the FIDE Anti-Cheating Guidelines, with standard levels of protection. Live broadcasts will be delayed by 15 minutes.
- 4.10. All players must adhere to the dress code (business casual or elegant casual; shorts and slippers are not permitted).
- 4.11. Smoking is not permitted on the tournament premises.
- 4.12. A player who has finished their game shall be considered a spectator and must leave the tournament premises.

5. Appeals

- 5.1. To resolve disputes, an Appeals Committee (AC) shall be elected at the technical meeting, consisting of the AC Chairperson, two regular AC members, and two reserve (alternate) AC members.
- 5.2. A player may appeal any decision of the Arbiter Panel by submitting a written appeal to the AC no later than one (1) hour after the completion of the respective round, along with an appeal fee of KZT 100,000.
- 5.3. The decision of the Appeals Committee shall be final.
- 5.4. If an appeal is upheld, the appeal fee shall be refunded in full.

6. Timeline

Date	Event
03.08.2025	Arrival 12:00 – 18:00 – Accreditation 19:00 Technical Meeting
04.08.2025	14:00 – Opening Ceremony 15:00 – Round 1
05.08.2025	15:00 – Round 2
06.08.2025	15:00 – Round 3
07.08.2025	15:00 – Round 4
08.08.2025	15:00 – Round 5
09.08.2025	15:00 – Round 6
10.08.2025	15:00 – Round 7
11.08.2025	15:00 – Round 8
12.08.2025	10:00 – Round 9 17:00 – Closing Ceremony



13.08.2025

Departure

** The Tournament's Arbiter Panel may adjust the schedule of rounds.*

7. Participants and Tournament Fee

7.1. The total number of participants shall not exceed 300. Priority will be given to those who apply earlier.

7.2. The Tournament is open to participants who meet the following eligibility criteria:

Masters Tournament: Elo rating: 2400+	Challengers Tournament: Elo rating: 1900–2399	Open Tournament: Elo rating: 1400–1899
Max participants: 100	Max participants: 100	Max participants: 100
Rating: 2600+ USD 0 = KZT 0	GM, IM, WGM and WIM USD 0 ≈ KZT 0	GM, IM, WGM and WIM USD 0 ≈ KZT 0
Rating: 2500–2599 USD 50 ≈ KZT 25,000	Rating: 1900–2399 USD 100 ≈ KZT 50,000	Rating: 1400–1899 USD 75 ≈ KZT 37,500
Rating: 2400–2499 USD 125 ≈ KZT 62,500		

7.3. Participants who are **Kazakhstan's nationals** and were born in or after 2007, or in or before 1965, as well as those with first, second or third-degree disabilities, shall receive a 50% discount on the tournament fee.

7.4. The **Masters Tournament** is open to members of the adult men's and women's teams. A limited number of Kazakhstan players rated below 2400 may be admitted at the discretion of the Coach Council. Applications must be submitted to tournaments@kazchess.kz by 3 July 2025. Decisions will be announced no earlier than 15 July 2025.

7.5. Tournament fees are non-refundable in the event of a player's withdrawal.

7.6. The Organising Committee will extend fully sponsored invitations exclusively to invited players rated above 2600 as of 1 June 2025 (**the list of invited players shall be determined by KazChess**):

Conditions	Fully sponsored invitations	
	Full-board accommodation	Flight reimbursement (equivalent)
GM Elo 2700+	Accommodation: single room, full board	up to KZT 500,000 ≈ up to USD 1,000
GM Elo 2600–2699	Accommodation: twin room, full board	up to KZT 400,000 ≈ up to USD 800

- *applications for fully sponsored invitations must be sent to tournaments@kazchess.kz;*
- *the organiser will extend a limited number of fully sponsored invitations;*
- *air tickets will be purchased by the Organising Committee;*
- *a twin room may be upgraded to a single room for an additional fee of KZT 20,000 ≈ USD 40 per day;*
- *the Organising Committee reserves the right to refuse fully sponsored invitations due to participant limits;*
- *no more than two players per country may be granted fully sponsored invitations;*
- *submitting an application does not guarantee a fully sponsored invitation;*
- *the final list of invited players will be determined by KazChess.*

8. Submission of Applications/Registration

- 8.1. Applications for participation in the Tournament shall be submitted via the following link: <https://opencups.kazchess.kz/> by 13 July 2025.
- 8.2. The Organising Committee reserves the right to close applications before the deadline if the maximum number of participants is reached.
- 8.3. The Organising Committee reserves the right to reject applications submitted after 13 July 2025.
- 8.4. For applications submitted after 13 July 2025, the tournament fee shall be increased by KZT 25,000 ≈ USD 50.
- 8.5. Tournament fees shall be used to cover general administrative and organisational expenses.
- 8.6. Tournament fees shall be collected at the time of registration on the KazChess website.
- 8.7. If a participant withdraws from the Tournament, the tournament fee shall not be refunded.
- 8.8. Registration is deemed complete once the participant's name appears on the start list at chess-result.com.
- 8.9. Participants must attend accreditation; if a participant fails to attend without notifying the organisers at least 24 hours before the opening ceremony, the Organising Committee may exclude them from the pairings for the first round.

9. Visas

- 9.1. An **invitation number** is required for visa processing. The timeline for document review by the authorised body responsible for issuing invitation numbers is two weeks or longer; therefore, participants must submit the requested documents no later than 3 July 2025.
- 9.2. Participants shall apply for an e-visa using the invitation number on their own via: <https://www.vmp.gov.kz/ru/services/visa-service>
- 9.3. The e-visa must be printed out for presentation to border control officers and for use within Kazakhstan. E-visas permit their holders to enter and exit Kazakhstan **only through international airports**.
- 9.4. Participants shall apply for a visa to be affixed in their passports using the invitation number at the embassies of Kazakhstan.
- 9.5. The visa fee is USD 80. Note: the organisers will cover the visa fee for participants who are extended a fully sponsored invitation.

10. Selection of Winners. Award Ceremony

- 10.1. Winners shall be determined based on the highest total number of points scored across all rounds. If the event of a tie, the following tiebreak criteria shall apply, in order of priority:
- a) Buchholz Cut 1 (the Buchholz score reduced by the lowest score);
 - a) head-to-head playoff (if all tied participants played against each other);



- b) greater number of wins;
- c) performance rating.

10.2. The guaranteed prize fund of the Tournament is \$100,000. *The prize fund is denominated in USD, and KZT amounts have been calculated at a fixed exchange rate of KZT 500 per US dollar.

<i>Masters Tournament, Elo 2400+ (\$78,000)</i>					
1st place	\$18,000	₸9,000,000	9th place	\$2,000	₸1,000,000
2nd place	\$14,000	₸7,000,000	10th place	\$1,600	₸800,000
3rd place	\$10,000	₸5,000,000	11th place	\$1,500	₸750,000
4th place	\$7,000	₸3,500,000	12th place	\$1,400	₸700,000
5th place	\$6,000	₸3,000,000	13th place	\$1,300	₸650,000
6th place	\$5,000	₸2,500,000	14th place	\$1,200	₸600,000
7th place	\$4,000	₸2,000,000	15th place	\$1,000	₸500,000
8th place	\$3,000	₸1,500,000	Best score among women	\$1,000	₸500,000

<i>Challengers Tournament, Elo 1900+ (\$15,000)</i>					
1st place	\$4,000	₸2,000,000	Best score among men: 2200	\$800	₸400,000
2nd place	\$3,000	₸1,500,000	Best score among men: 2100	\$700	₸350,000
3rd place	\$2,000	₸1,000,000	Best score among men: 2000	\$700	₸350,000
4th place	\$1,000	₸500,000	Best score among women	\$500	₸250,000
5th place	\$1,000	₸500,000	Best player (local)	\$500	₸250,000
6th place	\$800	₸400,000			

<i>Open Tournament, Elo under 1900 (\$7,000)</i>					
1st place	\$2,000	₸1,000,000	5th place	\$700	₸350,000
2nd place	\$1,500	₸750,000	Best score among men: 1600	\$500	₸250,000
3rd place	\$1,000	₸500,000	Best player (local)	\$500	₸250,000
4th place	\$800	₸400,000			

10.3. All prizes are subject to taxation in accordance with the current laws of Kazakhstan.

10.4. The main and additional prizes shall not be shared.

10.5. A participant may only receive one prize – the highest-value prize to which they are entitled.



10.6. Prize payments shall be transferred to the participant's bank account in KZT, USD or RUB within 30 calendar days of the submission of the required documents.

10.7. ***The prize fund is denominated in USD, and KZT amounts will be calculated at a fixed exchange rate of KZT 500 per US dollar.**

10.8. If a participant does not have a bank account, or their bank account is blocked, or if the transfer to their bank account is not possible due to sanctions or other circumstances, the participant must submit a notarised power of attorney for a third party to receive the prize money on their behalf.

10.9. Prize money shall not be paid in cash; if a player fails to submit the required documents within 10 calendar days following the conclusion of the Tournament, the Organising Committee reserves the right to withhold payment.

10. Tournament Expenses

10.1. **KazChess shall cover the following Tournament-related expenses:**

- prize fund of **\$78,000 for the Masters Tournament;**
- prize fund of **\$15,000 for the Challengers Tournament;**
- prize fund of **\$7,000 for the Open Tournament;**
- remuneration for the Arbiter Panel;
- partial coverage of organisational expenses.

10.2. **The Almaty Region Department of Physical Culture and Sports shall provide the following:**

- household arrangements (200 tables and 300 chairs);
- organisation of the Tournament opening and closing ceremonies;
- musical accompaniment for the Tournament opening and closing ceremonies;
- medical support during the Tournament;
- public order during the Tournament;
- fire brigade on duty during the Tournament;
- Tournament premises;
- decoration;
- transportation (airport pick-up and venue transfers for grandmasters).

10.3. **Travel and accommodation expenses shall be borne by the sending organisations.**

11. Rights and Obligations of Participants and Accompanying Persons

11.1. Participants shall compete in accordance with FIDE rules and these Regulations.

11.2. All participants, except those under the age of 6, shall keep records of their games.

11.3. A participant who fails to keep records of their game after two warnings from the arbiter shall be considered defeated. If this violation occurs again in a subsequent game, the participant shall be disqualified from the Tournament.

11.4. Participants, coaches and accompanying persons shall observe the rules of behaviour and decency in public places as required by the laws of Kazakhstan.

11.5. If a participant systematically violates game discipline, deliberately provokes scandals or commits other violations, they shall be disqualified from the Tournament. If a coach or accompanying person commits a similar violation, they shall be removed from the Tournament.

11.6. Tournament participants may:

- appeal to the Appeals Committee (clause 6.5);
- receive primary medical care at the tournament premises.

11.7. In accordance with Article 145 and subject to Article 15.8 of the Civil Code of Kazakhstan, to promote KazChess's sporting events and the activities of the Organiser, participants give their consent to:

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- the Organiser and/or third parties acting on behalf of and/or for the Organiser to make video and photographic recordings of the participants and their participation in the Tournament;
 - the Organiser to use the participants' names and to publish, reproduce and distribute the participants' images and/or other audio, video and photographic materials obtained during the Tournament, where the participants appear, by any means, without time or territorial limitations, including the right to edit these materials and transfer them to third parties.

The participants grant this consent free of charge for an indefinite period and shall not be entitled to claim any form of compensation from the Organiser in the future.

12. Contact Details

Tournament Director: as appointed by the Presidium

Chief Arbiter: as appointed by the Arbiter and Qualification Committee

Tournament Secretary: as appointed by the Arbiter and Qualification Committee

Tournament Manager: as appointed by the Presidium, tournaments@kazchess.kz