



האיגוד
הישראלי
לשחמט
ISRAEL CHESS FEDERATION



ELITE CHESS OPEN ISRAEL 2026

PRIZE FUND

\$13,000

Open for FIDE
ELO 2300+

8-17 MARCH 2026

Register Now!

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ELITE CHESS TOURNAMENT 2026

International Open Tournament | GM & IM norm opportunities

Players from all chess federations are cordially invited to take part in a unique international open tournament to be held in Israel between March 8–17, 2026.

The tournament is designated for FIDE ELO 2300+ rated players, with participation of foreign players and opportunities for GM and IM norms.

The tournament is a cooperation of four Israeli Chess Clubs: Ashdod • Etude Ramat Gan • Rishon LeZion • Kfar Saba • and the Israeli Chess Federation.



Schedule

Swiss System - 9 Rounds

Default tolerance 30 minutes delay

Opening Ceremony on 8.3.26 at 14:00

(Please arrive by 13:30)

Closing ceremony will be at approximately 17:00



Time Control

90 minutes for 40 moves, plus 30 minutes until the end of the game, with a 30-second increment for each move starting from move one

♟ Sofia Rules apply: no draw offers are allowed before move 30

8.3.26 Round 1 14:15

9.3.26 Round 2 10:00

9.3.26 Round 3 17:00

10.3.26 Round 4 14:00

11.3.26 Free Day

12.3.26 Round 5 14:00

13.3.26 Free Day

14.3.26 Round 6 19:00

15.3.26 Round 7 14:00

16.3.26 Round 8 14:00

17.3.26 Round 9 11:00

17.3.26 Closing Ceremony

Round 1 - 5 | Kfar Saba Chess Club
4–6 Geller street, Kfar Saba
Contact: IA Amiram Kaplan +972-546799203

Round 6 - 9 | Ashdod Chess Club
HaErez 5 street, Ashdod
Contact: Moshe Slav +972-508557766



Participation

- Eligible Players (By rating list: 1st December 2025, 1st January 2026, 1st February 2026):
Players with FIDE ELO above 2300. A limited number of players 2150-2300 from organizing clubs
- Guaranteed prizes for limited foreign GM / IM players
For further information, please contact via email: EliteChess.israel@gmail.com
- Broadcasting: first 12 games would be broadcast
- Anti-cheating: anti-cheating means would be assimilated
- Dress Code: casual dress (jeans are acceptable)

Prize Fund - Total 13,000\$

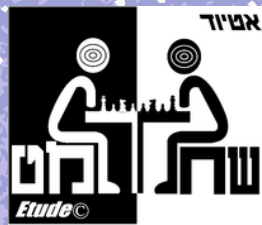
- For Israeli players, payments in ILS will be calculated according to the USD exchange rate on the payment day
- Tie-break system: 1. Head to head, 2. Buchholz Cut 1 3. Performance
- In case of equal score, the first two players only, an Armageddon game would be held
- Player can win only one prize. Rating prizes according to the 1st March rating list

MAIN PRIZES Hort system

1st	3000 \$ + cup
2nd	2200 \$ + cup
3rd	1500 \$ + cup
4th	1250 \$
5th	1000 \$
6th	500 \$
7th - 10th	250 \$ each

CATEGORY PRIZES No sharing

Top Women (minimum 3 players)	500 \$ + cup
Top Youth Under 18	300 \$ + cup
Top Senior Above 50 (minimum 5 players)	250 \$ + cup
Rating Prize U2500	500\$
Rating Prize U2400	250 \$
Best Surprising Player (gap between Performance and Rating)	250\$
Special prize For the top players from the Organizing Clubs	125\$ each



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Venue

- Light refreshments will be served during games
- The playing halls are air-conditioned
- Arbiters: IA Amiram Kaplan and other arbiters. The full list of arbiters and the Appeals Committee members will be published ahead of the event.

Round 1-5

Kfar Saba Chess Club Address 4-6 Geller Street, Kfar Saba

Contact: IA Amiram Kaplan +972-54-679-9203

Transportation to Kfar Saba Chess Club

Easy access by public transport from Tel Aviv and central Israel:

Direct bus lines from Tel Aviv to the Kfar Saba Club: Bus 149, 567, and others

Trains go frequently toward Hod-Hasharon-Sokolov station. From Hod-Hasharon-Sokolov Station, the club at 4-6 Geller Street is about a 10-15 minutes walk.

Parking

Parking is available near the venue at Geller 2 and Geller 4, subject to availability

Note: Parking is not available on Monday, before the second round, due the overload

Round 6-9

Ashdod Chess Club Address: HaErez 5 Street.

AshdodContact: Moshe Slav +972-508557766

Transportation to Ashdod Chess Club

Easy access by public transport from Tel Aviv and central Israel:

Direct bus lines from Tel Aviv to the Ashdod club: Bus 320

Trains go frequently toward Ashdod Ad Halom. From Ashdod Ad Halom Station to the club is a short taxi or local bus ride.

Parking

There is public parking available in the vicinity of HaErez Street and nearby side streets

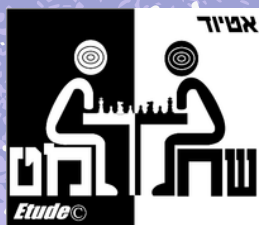
Weather in March: Mild spring weather with an average daytime temperature of about 19°C, and only a few rainy days are expected.

Accommodation

For foreign National League players, accommodation will be managed individually by the hosting clubs.

Tournament management will do its best to rent apartments at a reasonable cost.

Free transport to venues is available if apartments are arranged in advance.



Registration

Registration Deadline: February 3, 2026. Please note that the number of places is limited. After this date, registration will depend on available places. Please do not miss the deadline! [Click here to view the participant list](#)

For registration: Marsel Efroimski
EliteChess.israel@gmail.com
+972-546850024

For more details: Amiram Kaplan
kamiram@inter.net.il
+972-546799203

[TO PAY IN USD CLICK HERE](#)

[TO PAY IN NIS CLICK HERE](#)

Club members of Ashdod,
Rishon LeZion, Ramat Gan,
Kfar Saba have 15% Discount

[TO PAY IN NIS CLICK HERE](#)

Participation Fees in
NIS for Israeli Players

U-2299	1000 NIS
2300-2399	800 NIS
Above 2400	600 NIS
IM \ WIM	400 NIS
GM \ WGM	FREE

Participation Fees in
USD for Players from abroad

U-2299	320 USD
2300-2399	260 USD
Above 2400	Free
IM \ WIM	125 USD
GM \ WGM	FREE

The organizers reserve the right to make changes if necessary

Chairman of the Organizing Committee Gil Boruchovski CEO ICF

Members:

Mr. Moshe Slav – Ashdod Chess Club
Mr. Adi Lahav – Rishon LeZion Chess Club
Mr. Dan Drori – Etude Ramat Gan Chess Club
Mr. Amiram Kaplan – Kfar Saba Chess Club
GM Ido Gorshtein
IM \ WGM Marsel Efroimski



*We are eagerly awaiting you!
You are most welcome!*

Gil Boruchovski CEO ICF

