

REGULATIONS

“Baku Open – 2026”
International Chess Festival

1. Purpose and objectives

- 1.1. Promotion and development of chess in the Republic of Azerbaijan;
- 1.2. Improvement of players’ tournament experience and international ratings, as well as fulfillment of international norms;
- 1.3. Preparation of young chess players for European and World Championships;
- 1.4. Fulfillment of international norms by Azerbaijani arbiters.

2. Organizers

- 2.1. Ministry of Youth and Sports of the Republic of Azerbaijan;
- 2.2. Azerbaijan Chess Federation.

3. Venue and Dates

- 3.1. The Festival will be held in the city of Baku at the “Crystal Hall”.
- 3.2. The Festival will take place from 27 April to 06 May 2026.

4. Rules of Conduct

- 4.1. The tournaments shall be conducted in accordance with the FIDE Laws of Chess.
- 4.2. The Azerbaijan Chess Federation reserves the right to make decisions on other matters not specified in these Regulations.
- 4.3. The Festival shall be organized in three groups — Groups A, B, and C.
- 4.4. The requirements for each group are as set out in the table below:
 - 4.4.1. Group A is open to male chess players with a rating of 2250 and above and female chess players with a rating of 2100 and above.
 - 4.4.2. Group B is open to chess players with an international rating up to 2249.
 - 4.4.3. Group C is open to chess players U12 (born in 2014 or later). Preference shall be given to rated players during registration. Unrated players may be allowed to participate at the discretion of the Azerbaijan Chess Federation (ACF).
- 4.5. In all three groups, the competition shall be held over 9 rounds using the Swiss system.
- 4.6. The time control for each game shall be 90 minutes for the entire game, with an increment of 30 seconds per move starting from the first move (90 minutes + 30 seconds per move).
- 4.7. The default time is 15 minutes. A player who arrives more than 15 minutes after the scheduled start of the round shall lose the game.
- 4.8. In the event of a tie in points, the winner shall be determined according to the following tie-break criteria:

Group A, B	Group C
1. Average rating of opponents (80)	1. Direct encounter (11)
2. Direct encounter (11)	2. Number of wins (68)
3. Number of wins (68)	3. Buchholts cut (0,-1) (84)
4. Buchholts (84)	4. Buchholts (84)

- 4.9. The pairings shall be conducted using the “Swiss-Manager” software. Results and pairings shall be published daily on the website www.chess-results.com
- 4.10. The schedule of the competitions shall be as follows:

Date	Event	Time
27 April 2026	Arrival	During the day
	Confirmation of registr.	10:00-20:00
28 April 2026	Opening Ceremony	14:30
28 April 2026	Round 1	15:00
29 April 2026	Round 2	15:00
30 April 2026	Round 3	15:00
01 May 2026	Round 4	15:00
02 May 2026	Round 5	15:00
03 May 2026	Round 6	15:00
04 May 2026	Round 7	15:00
05 May 2026	Round 8	15:00
06 May 2026	Round 9	14:00
	Closing ceremony	20:00

5. Registration and entry fee

- 5.1. Registration shall be open from the date of the festival announcement until 17 April 2026.
- 5.2. Registration shall be conducted exclusively online through the official website of the Festival: (bakuopen.chess.az)
- 5.3. The entry fee for participation in the competition shall be determined according to the table below:

Group	Men		Women	
A	2400-2450	50 AZN	2300 <	-
	2350-2399	60 AZN	2250-2299	40 AZN
	2250-2349	80 AZN	2100-2249	60 AZN
B	1801-2249	40 AZN	1801-2249	20 AZN
	<1800	60 AZN	<1800	30 AZN
	Not rated	80 AZN	Not rated	40 AZN
C	Free			

- 5.4. The following participants shall be exempt from the entry fee:
- International Grandmasters (male and female)
 - International Masters (male and female)
 - Veterans (S60 and above)
 - Chess players with an international rating above 2450
 - Children U12 (born in 2014 or later).

6. Prizes

- 6.1. The total prize fund shall be USD 50,000.
- 6.2. The prize fund shall be provided by the Azerbaijan Chess Federation.
- 6.3. Prizes shall be paid exclusively via bank transfer to the player’s bank account.

6.4. Prizes for Groups A and B shall be determined according to the tables below:

Group A				Group B			
Place	General	Women	U16	General	Women	Rating 0-1750	Rating 1751-2000
1	10.000\$	1.500 \$	800 \$	1.500\$	300 \$	300 \$	300 \$
2	7.000\$	1.200 \$	500 \$	1.000\$	200 \$	200 \$	200 \$
3	5.000\$	1.000 \$	300 \$	700\$	150 \$	150 \$	150 \$
4	3.000\$			500\$			
5	2.000\$			400\$			
6	1.600\$			300\$			
7	1.200\$			250\$			
8	1.000\$			250\$			
9	800\$			250\$			
10	700\$			200\$			

6.5. The prize fund shall be exempt from all types of taxes applicable in the Republic of Azerbaijan.

6.6. In all three groups (A, B, and C), the winner shall be awarded a trophy.

6.7. In Group C, the top three players among boys and girls under 8, 10, and 12 shall be awarded diplomas from the Ministry of Youth and Sports and gifts from the Azerbaijan Chess Federation.

6.8. If a participant qualifies for multiple prizes, only one prize—the highest—shall be awarded.

6.9. If two or more players score the same number of points, the prize shall not be shared; it shall be awarded to the player with the superior tie-break score.

7. Accommodation and Invited Players

7.1.1. Certain high-rated international players shall be invited by the organizers:

7.1.2. Chess players with a rating above 2550 shall be accommodated in a double room with full board (the first four applicants).

7.1.3. Chess players with a rating above 2600 shall be accommodated in a double room with full board and receive USD 500 for travel expenses (the first four applicants).

7.1.4. Chess players with a rating above 2650 shall be accommodated in a single room with full board and receive USD 1,000 for travel expenses (the first four applicants).

7.1.5. The first four chess players with a rating above 2700 shall be accommodated in a single room with full board and receive USD 1,500 for travel expenses.

7.2. Hotel accommodation for participants shall be offered in accordance with the table below:

Hotel	Double room		Single room	
	With breakfast	Full board	With breakfast	Full board
Sheraton Hotel Intourist *****	175	-	150	-
Riviera Hotel ****	114	-	87	-
Ibis Hotel ***	138	201	115	175

7.3. **Note:** All prices are indicated in AZN. VAT is included only in the rates of the Ibis Hotel. A Municipal Tax of 1.30 AZN applies to all hotels and is not included in the above rates.

- 7.4. The official hotel of the festival shall be the Ibis Hotel, and invited players shall be accommodated at the Ibis Hotel. Transportation will be provided only from the official hotel to the playing venue.

8. Appeals

- 8.1. Protests against decisions of the Chief Arbiter may be submitted to the Appeals Committee. The members of the Appeals Committee shall be selected and appointed by the Organizing Committee.
- 8.2. Protests shall be submitted in writing within 1 (one) hour after the end of the game concerned and shall be accompanied by a relevant fee of 200 (two hundred) AZN.

9. Media

- 9.1. During the Festival, photography shall be allowed only for accredited media representatives.
- 9.2. Flash photography shall be permitted only during the first 5 (five) minutes after the start of each round.

10. Visa and Migration

- 10.1. Electronic visas can be easily obtained via the following link: <https://evisa.gov.az/az/>
- 10.2. The list of countries eligible for an e-visa: <https://evisa.gov.az/az/countries>
- 10.3. Chess players from countries not eligible for an e-visa must contact the Embassy of Azerbaijan in their respective country.
- 10.4. If necessary, the Organizing Committee shall assist in obtaining an entry visa by providing an invitation letter.
- 10.5. In accordance with the migration legislation of the Republic of Azerbaijan, foreign citizens must register at their place of residence within 14 (fourteen) days while staying in the territory of the Republic of Azerbaijan. <https://migration.gov.az/en>

Contact:

Azerbaijan Chess Federation
Organizing Committee
E-mail: bakuopen@chess.az
Web: bakuopen.chess.az