

«KazChess Masters» Round Robin Tournament Regulations

1. General Provisions

- 1.1 . Promoting chess in Kazakhstan;
- Developing professional chess in Kazakhstan;
 - Training Kazakhstan’s leading chess players.

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.

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

3. Dates and Venue

Dates: 20 March 2026 (arrival) – 30 March 2026 (departure).

Venue: Shymkent city, Tauke Khan Avenue 111, Tauke Khan Plaza Hotel.

4. Tournament Conditions

- 4.1. The Tournament shall be rated by FIDE.
- 4.2. The Tournaments shall be played over 9 rounds using the round robin system, in accordance with FIDE rules.
- 4.3. Pairings shall be generated using the Swiss Manager programme.
- 4.4. Time control: Classical 90 minutes for 40 moves + 30 minutes till the end of the game, with a 30-second increment per move starting from move one.
- 4.5. A player arriving more than 30 minutes late for a round shall be forfeited.
- 4.6. Draw offers shall not be permitted before move 30.
- 4.7. 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.
- 4.8. All players must adhere to the dress code (business casual or elegant casual; shorts and slippers are not permitted).

5. Appeals

5.1. To resolve disputes, an Appeals Committee (AC) shall be elected at the technical meeting, consisting of the AC Chairperson and two regular 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 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
20.03.2026	Arrival
21.03.2026	14:00 – Opening Ceremony 15:00 – Round 1
22.03.2026	15:00 – Round 2
23.03.2026	15:00 – Round 3
24.03.2026	15:00 – Round 4
25.03.2026	15:00 – Round 5
26.03.2026	15:00 – Round 6
27.03.2026	15:00 – Round 7
28.03.2026	15:00 – Round 8

29.03.2026	11:00 – Round 9 17:00* – Closing Ceremony
30.03.2026	Departure

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

7. Tournament Participants

7.1. Eligible participants in the Tournament shall include players from different countries and Kazakhstan invited by the KazChess organising committee.

7.2. All invited participants shall be provided with accommodation, meals and air tickets.

7.3. The Arbiter Panel shall be appointed by the KazChess Arbiter and Qualification Committee (AQC).

8. Selection of Winners. Award Ceremony

8.1. 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:

- Sonneborn-Berger score;
- direct encounter;
- greater number of wins;

8.2. The guaranteed prize fund at the Tournament is KZT 25,000,000.

<i>Masters Tournament</i>	
1st place	₸7,000,000
2nd place	₸5,000,000
3rd place	₸3,500,000
4th place	₸2,500,000
5th place	₸2,000,000
6th place	₸1,500,000
7th place	₸1,250,000
8th place	₸1,000,000
9th place	₸750,000
10th place	₸500,000

8.3. All prizes shall be subject to taxation in accordance with the current laws of the Republic of Kazakhstan. Individual income tax on prize money shall be withheld at the source in accordance with Kazakh tax legislation at a rate of 10% for tax residents of Kazakhstan and 20% for non-residents.

8.4. The prizes shall not be shared.

8.5. Prize payments shall be transferred to the participant's bank account in KZT or USD within 30 calendar days of the submission of the required documents. Amounts transferred in USD shall be converted from KZT at the exchange rate of the National Bank of the Republic of Kazakhstan on the date of payment.

8.6. 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.

9. Tournament Expenses

9.1. Tournament expenses shall be covered by KazChess.

10. Contact Details

Tournament Director: Anuar Isbagambetov.

Chief Arbiter: by appointment of the KazChess Arbiter and Qualification Committee (AQC)

Tournament Manager: Assem Kishkimbayeva, + 7 777 522 8983

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