



MINISTRY OF
TOURISM AND SPORTS



CHESS TOURNAMENT

ATYRAU OPEN 2026

october 11-21



"APPROVED"

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Executive Director

RPA Kazakhstan Chess Federation

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REGULATIONS

Atyrau Open 2026 International Chess Tournament
(Stage 3 of the Kazakhstan Chess Cup 2026)

1. General Provisions

1.1 The Atyrau Open 2026 International Chess Tournament (hereinafter referred to as the "Tournament") is conducted in accordance with the calendar of sporting events of the Kazakhstan Chess Federation (KCF) for the following purposes:

- to popularize chess in the Republic of Kazakhstan and the Atyrau Region;
- to develop professional chess in the Republic of Kazakhstan;
- to enhance the skills of the RK national adult and youth teams;
- to determine candidates for participation in the Kazakhstan Chess Cup 2026 Final.

2. Organizing Committee

2.1. The overall management and organization of the Tournament shall be carried out by the Kazakhstan Chess Federation (KCF) with the support of the Ministry of Tourism and Sports of the Republic of Kazakhstan as well as the Department of Physical Education and Sport of Atyrau region

2.2. The direct execution and management of the tournaments shall be the responsibility of the Tournament Directors and the Arbiter Panels approved by the KCF Presidium.

3. Dates and Venue

3.1. Dates: October 11 (arrival day) – October 21 (departure day), 2026;

3.2. Playing venue: to be published on the KCF website.

4. Tournaments and Conditions

4.1. The Stage consists of two tournaments (hereinafter the Tournaments):

- **Masters** tournament;
- **Open** tournament.

4.2. The Tournaments shall be FIDE rated.

4.3. The Tournaments shall be held as 9-round Swiss system events in accordance with FIDE Laws of Chess.

4.4. Pairings shall be made using the Swiss Manager software.

4.5. Time control: classical 90+30 (90 minutes for the entire game with an increment of 30 seconds per move starting from move one).

4.6. Any player arriving at the chessboard more than 30 minutes after the start of the session shall lose the game by default.

4.7. Draw offers are prohibited before move 30.

- 4.8. Fair play (anti-cheating) measures shall be implemented in accordance with the FIDE Anti-Cheating Regulations under the standard protection level. A 15-minute broadcast delay shall be applied.
- 4.9. All players must adhere to the dress code (Business Casual, Smart Casual; shorts and slippers are not allowed).
- 4.10. Smoking in the playing hall is prohibited.
- 4.11. A player who has finished their game is considered a spectator and must leave the tournament hall.

5. Appeals

- 5.1. To resolve disputes, an Appeals Committee (AC) shall be elected at the Technical Meeting, which will consist of a Chairperson, 2 main members, and 2 reserve members.
- 5.2. A player may appeal any decision of the Arbiter Panel by submitting a written appeal to the AC within 1 hour after the end of the round and paying an appeal fee of KZT100,000;
- 5.3. The decision of the Appeals Committee is final.
- 5.4. In the event an appeal is upheld, the appeal fee shall be refunded in full.

6. Schedule

Date	Event
11 October 2026	Arrival Day 2:00 PM – 6:00 PM Accreditation 07:00 PM Technical Meeting
12 October 2026	2:00 PM Opening Ceremony Round 1 starts immediately after the Opening Ceremony
13 October 2026	3:00 PM Round 2
14 October 2026	3:00 PM Round 3
15 October 2026	3:00 PM Round 4
16 October 2026	3:00 PM Round 5
17 October 2026	3:00 PM Round 6
18 October 2026	3:00 PM Round 7
19 October 2026	3:00 PM Round 8
20 October 2026	10:00 AM Round 9
	5:00 PM Closing Ceremony
21 October 2026	Departure Day

** The round schedule may be adjusted by the Tournament Arbiter Panel*

7. Participants and Entry Fees

- 7.1. The maximum number of participants is 300 players. Priority of participation is given to athletes based on their application date (earlier applications are prioritized).
- 7.2. The following players are eligible to participate, provided they meet the requirements below as of 1st September, 2026:

Masters Tournament	Open Tournament
ELO 2400+	ELO up to 2400
Rating: 2600+ 0 USD = 0 KZT	Rating: 2200-2399 50 USD ≈ 25 000 KZT
Rating: 2500-2599 50 USD ≈ 25 000 KZT	Rating: 2000 -2199 75 USD ≈ 37 500 KZT
Rating: 2400-2499	Rating: 1800-1999

Masters Tournament	Open Tournament
ELO 2400+	ELO up to 2400
100 USD ≈ 50 000 KZT	100 USD ≈ 50 000 KZT
	Unrated and below 1799 125 USD ≈ 62 500 KZT

By decision of the Coaching Council of the Kazakhstan Chess Federation, additional participants may be admitted

7.3. A 50% discount on the entry fee for the Open tournament is available to the following citizens of the Republic of Kazakhstan: juniors (born in 2008 and later), seniors (born in 1966 and earlier), and participants with disabilities (Categories 1, 2, and 3).

7.4. The entry fee is non-refundable in the event of withdrawal or if the application does not meet the rating requirements.

7.5. The Organizing Committee provides hospitality only to invited athletes who meet the requirements below (the final list of invited participants is formed by the **Republican Public Association "Kazakhstan Chess Federation"**):

Terms

Rating	Conditions
GM ELO 2650+	Accommodation in a single room (single) with full board, including tickets.
GM ELO 2550–2649	Accommodation in a single room (single) with full board.
WGM ELO 2400+	Accommodation in a single room (single) with full board, including tickets.
GM ELO up to 2550	Accommodation in a twin room (twin) with full board.
WGM ELO up to 2400	

- Hospitality applications must be sent to tournaments@kazchess.kz;
- The organizer accepts a limited number of hospitality applications;
- The Organizing Committee reserves the right to refuse hospitality due to the limited number of available places;
- An upgrade of a twin room to a single room is possible upon additional payment;
- Hospitality is provided to no more than two athletes from the same country;
- Submission of an application **does not guarantee automatic hospitality**;
- **The final list of invited athletes is formed by the Kazakhstan Chess Federation in coordination with the Kazakhstan Chess Federation Coaches' Council.**

8. Registration and Applications

8.1. Registration for the tournaments is accepted at the following link: <https://opencups.kazchess.kz> until September 11, 2026;

8.2. The Organizing Committee reserves the right to close registration before the specified date once the maximum number of participants is reached;

8.3. The Organizing Committee reserves the right to refuse registration after September 11, 2026;

8.4. For participants requesting registration after September 11, 2026, the entry fee will be increased by KZT 75,000 ≈ USD 150;

8.5. Entry fees are accepted during the tournament registration process on the website <https://opencups.kazchess.kz>;

8.6. In the event of withdrawal from the tournament or if an application does not meet the rating requirements, the entry fee is non-refundable;

8.7. Personal presence at the accreditation is mandatory; in case of absence without prior notice sent via email to tournaments@kazchess.kz before the end of the accreditation period, the Organizing Committee reserves the right not to include the participant in the first-round pairings.

9. Visa

9.1. An invitation reference number is required to apply for the visa. The processing time for the authorized body to issue an invitation number is at least 2 weeks; therefore, participants must submit the requested documents no later than one month before the start of the tournament.

9.2. Fees for the issuance of an invitation reference number:

9.2.1. Accompanying persons and participants shall pay 20 USD to the Organizing Committee for the issuance of the invitation number.

9.2.2. For invited participants who are provided with hospitality, the cost of issuing the invitation number shall be covered by the organizers.

9.3. Upon receiving the unique invitation reference number, participants shall independently apply for an electronic visa (e-visa) on the website: <https://www.vmp.gov.kz/ru/services/visa-service>.

9.4. The electronic visa must be printed for presentation during border crossing and while staying within the territory of the Republic of Kazakhstan. The electronic visa grants the right to enter and exit the Republic of Kazakhstan only **through international airports**.

9.5. Participants may also obtain a visa sticker at the Embassy of the Republic of Kazakhstan.

9.6. The visa fee is 80 USD.

*Note: For invited participants who are provided with hospitality, the visa fee shall be covered by the organizers.

10. Determination of Winners. Awarding

10.1. Winners of the competitions are determined by the highest total number of points scored in all games. In case of a tie, the following criteria shall apply in order:

- a) Buchholz Cut 1 (excluding the lowest result);
- b) Direct encounter (provided that all participants in the tie played against each other);
- c) Greater number of wins;
- d) Performance rating.

10.2. Guaranteed Prize Fund of the Tournament. ***The prize fund is calculated in KZT; the amount in USD is indicated based on the exchange rate of the National Bank of the Republic of Kazakhstan at the time of signing the regulations.**

Masters Tournament					
Main Prizes KZT 37 750 000 ≈ USD 75 500					
1st place	KZT 9 000 000	≈ USD 18 000	9th place	KZT 1 000 000	≈ USD 2 000
2nd place	KZT 7 000 000	≈ USD 14 000	10th place	KZT 800 000	≈ USD 1 600
3rd place	KZT 5 000 000	≈ USD 10 000	11th place	KZT 750 000	≈ USD 1 500
4th place	KZT 3 500 000	≈ USD 7 000	12th place	KZT 500 000	≈ USD 1 000
5th place	KZT 3 000 000	≈ USD 6 000	13th place	KZT 450 000	≈ USD 900
6th place	KZT 2 500 000	≈ USD 5 000	14th place	KZT 400 000	≈ USD 800
7th place	KZT 2 000 000	≈ USD 4 000	15th place	KZT 350 000	≈ USD 700
8th place	KZT 1 500 000	≈ USD 3 000			

Masters Tournament <i>Special prizes KZT 2 250 000 ≈ USD 4 500</i>					
Best Women's Result			Best Kazakhstani Player Result		
1st place	KZT 400 000	≈ USD 800	1st place	KZT 500 000	≈ USD 1 000
2nd place	KZT 350 000	≈ USD 700	2nd place	KZT 400 000	≈ USD 800
3rd place	KZT 250 000	≈ USD 500	3rd place	KZT 350 000	≈ USD 700

Rating Prizes KZT 5 000 000 ≈ USD 10 000					
2500 – 2599 Elo		2400 – 2499 Elo		2300 – 2399 Elo	
KZT 1 250 000	≈ USD 2 500	KZT 1 050 000	≈ USD 2 100	KZT 750 000	≈ USD 1 500
KZT 750 000	≈ USD 1 500	KZT 700 000	≈ USD 1 400	KZT 500 000	≈ USD 1 000

Open Tournament <i>Main prizes KZT 4 675 000 ≈ USD 9 350</i>		
1st place	KZT 1 350 000	≈ USD 2 700
2nd place	KZT 850 000	≈ USD 1 700
3rd place	KZT 600 000	≈ USD 1 200
4th place	KZT 450 000	≈ USD 900
5th place	KZT 350 000	≈ USD 700
6th place	KZT 300 000	≈ USD 600
7th place	KZT 250 000	≈ USD 500
8th place	KZT 200 000	≈ USD 400
9th place	KZT 175 000	≈ USD 350
10th place	KZT 150 000	≈ USD 300

Open Tournament <i>Special Prizes KZT 325 000 ≈ USD 650</i>		
Best Veteran Result (born 1966 and older)		
1 st place	KZT 150 000	≈ USD 300
Best Women's Result		
1 st place	KZT 175 000	≈ USD 350

10.3. Taxes will be withheld from all prizes in accordance with the current legislation of the Republic of Kazakhstan;

10.4. Main and special prizes are not shared;

10.5. A participant may receive only one prize, the highest one;

10.6. **The tournament prize fund is calculated in KZT. The amount in USD is provided for informational purposes only and is converted at the exchange rate of the National Bank of the Republic of Kazakhstan at the time of signing the regulations. Prize payouts are made in KZT, USD, or EUR; the conversion is performed at the exchange rate of the National Bank of the Republic of Kazakhstan on the date of payment;**

10.7. The deadline for submitting documents for prize payouts is seven (7) calendar days. The prize payout period is up to thirty (30) business days from the moment all necessary, properly executed, and signed documents are received;

10.8. If a player does not have a bank account, if it is blocked, or if a transfer to their bank account is impossible due to sanctions or other circumstances, the player must, among other things, provide a notarized power of attorney for a third party to receive their cash prizes;

10.9. Cash prizes are not paid in physical cash, and if the player fails to provide the requested documents within seven (7) calendar days from the end of the tournament, the Organizing Committee reserves the right not to pay the prize.

11. Competition Expenses

11.1. The **Kazakhstan Chess Federation (KCF)** shall bear the following expenses for the competition:

- Provision of the prize fund in the amount of ***KZT 20,000,000 for the Masters Tournament;***
- Provision of the prize fund in the amount of ***KZT 5,000,000 for the Open Tournament;***
- Payment for the Arbiter Panel;
- Partial payment of organizational expenses.

11.2. The **Department of Physical Education and Sport of Atyrau Region** shall provide:

- Partial funding of the prize fund in the amount of ***25,000,000 KZT for the Masters tournament;***
- Organization of the Opening and Closing ceremonies;
- Musical accompaniment for the Opening and Closing ceremonies;
- Medical support during the tournament;
- Public order and security during the championship;
- Fire brigade standby during the tournament;
- Provision of the tournament hall venue;
- Event branding and decoration;

11.3. **Expenses related to travel and accommodation for participants shall be borne by the sending organizations.**

12. Rights and Obligations of Participants and Accompanying Persons

12.1. Participants shall play in accordance with the FIDE Laws of Chess and these Regulations.

12.2. Recording of games (scorekeeping) is mandatory for all participants, except for those in the "Under 6" category.

12.3. A participant who fails to record the game after two warnings from the arbiter shall be declared lost. If the situation recurs in a subsequent game, the participant shall be disqualified from the competition.

12.4. Participants, coaches, and accompanying persons shall comply with the code of conduct and rules of decency in public places as established by the legislation of the Republic of Kazakhstan.

12.5. In the event of systematic violation of playing discipline, intentional provocation of scandalous situations, or other violations, the participant shall be disqualified from the competition. In the event of similar violations by coaches or accompanying persons, the violators shall be deprived of the right to remain at the Cup.

12.6. Cup participants shall be entitled:

- to appeal to the Appeals Committee (see Clause 5.2);

– to receive primary medical assistance in the tournament hall.

12.7. In accordance with Article 145 of the Civil Code of the Republic of Kazakhstan and taking into account the requirements of Paragraph 8 of Article 15 of the Civil Code of the Republic of Kazakhstan, for the purpose of promoting the sporting events of the Kazakhstan Chess Federation and the activities of the Organizer, the Participant gives the Organizer their consent:

– For the Organizer and/or third parties acting on behalf of and/or in the interest of the Organizer to perform video and photography of the Participant's image (photo and/or video) during the course of their participation in the Competition;

– For the Organizer to use the Participant's name, and to publish, reproduce, and distribute the Participant's image and/or other audio, video, or photographic materials obtained as a result of the Competition featuring the Participant, by any means and in any media without limitation on time or territory, including the right to edit said materials and transfer them to third parties.

13. Contact Information

Tournament Director: Vice President of the Kazakhstan Chess Federation, **Marat Yesenov**

Tournament Technical Director: **Anuar Ismagambetov**, tournaments@kazchess.kz.

Chief Arbiter: To be appointed by the ACC (Arbiter's Council of Kazakhstan)

Tournament Secretary: To be appointed by the ACC

Tournament Manager: To be appointed, tournaments@kazchess.kz.