



Regulations for the 2026-27 World Chess Festival (WCF) Series

<https://WorldChessFestival.com>

1. Introduction

- 1.1 The World Chess Festival (hereafter “WCF”) is a series of chess tournaments taking place between April 2026 and August 2027 in various cities worldwide.
- 1.2 For the purpose of promoting the WCF, publishing regulations, communicating with players and broadcasting games and results, the website <https://WorldChessFestival.com> (hereafter “WCF website”) is the only official platform of all WCF events.

2. Format of the WCF Series 2026-27

- 2.1 The WCF Series will consist of tournaments to be held over two years (2026-2027) with rapid and standard time controls. There will be qualifying tournaments from April 2026 to May 2027 and the WCF Final Tournament by August 2027.
- 2.2 Each qualifying tournament may have up to 100 players with a schedule of a seven (7) rounds up to nine (9) rounds swiss system. The dates scheduled for the WCF qualifying tournaments are listed on the WCF website and may be subject to change. A qualifying tournament may be limited to certain age or gender categories. Each qualifying tournament may be played with rapid time control. See article 2.6 below for exact description of each time control.
- 2.3 The WCF Final tournament in August 2027 may have up to 150 players with a schedule of a nine (9) rounds swiss system. The WCF Final tournament shall be played with standard time control.
- 2.4 Each player can participate in any number of WCF tournaments provided he/she registers and confirms participation before the quota of each tournament is reached.
- 2.5 Rewards for winners of WCF Final Tournament and qualifying tournaments are described in articles 3.1 and 4.1 below.
- 2.6 Time controls to be used in the WCF (or similar):
 - a) Rapid: 10 minutes for the whole game + an additional 5 seconds per move starting from move 1.
 - b) Standard: 75 minutes for 40 moves + 15 minutes for the rest of the game + an additional 30 seconds per move starting from move 1.
- 2.7 All WCF tournaments shall be submitted for FIDE rating by the local chief arbiter of each tournament. WCF will do everything possible to have all tournaments FIDE rated but the ultimate responsibility lies with each local chief arbiter of each tournament.
- 2.8 The exact schedule of each tournament shall be linked on the WCF website and may be subject to change only for serious unforeseen reasons upon approval by the managing director of WorldChessFestival.com (WCF) or his/her authorized deputy.
- 2.9 During the game, a player may talk only to an arbiter or communicate with his opponent as permitted by the Laws of Chess. Appropriate sporting behaviour is expected from all participants and FIDE rules of conduct are to be strictly followed at all times.

3. WCF Final Tournament: Prize Money & WCF Ranking Points

3.1 The Final WCF Tournament will have a prize fund of 10,000 USD and 2500 WCF Ranking Points to be distributed towards the overall standings of the WCF Series 2026-27, as described below:

<u>PLACE</u>	<u>PRIZE MONEY (in USD \$)</u>	<u>WCF RANKING POINTS</u>
1 st	3,000	900
2 nd	2,000	700
3 rd	1,000	500
4 th	800	300
5 th	700	100
6 th	600	
7 th	500	
8 th	400	
9 th	300	
10 th	200	

The 1st woman also receives 500 USD (in addition to any other prize from the general standings).

3.2 All money prizes and WCF ranking points are shared equally in case of any tied positions.

4. WCF Qualifying Tournaments: Prize Money & WCF Ranking Points

4.1 Each qualifying WCF Tournament will also have its own prize fund and 500 WCF Ranking Points to be distributed towards the overall standings of the WCF Series 2026-27, as described below:

<u>PLACE</u>	<u>PRIZE MONEY (in USD \$)</u>	<u>WCF RANKING POINTS</u>
1st	200	250
2nd	150	150
3rd	100	100

4.2 All money prizes and WCF ranking points are shared equally in case of any tied positions.

5. WCF Overall Standings

5.1 The overall winner of the World Chess Festival (WCF) 2026-27 will be the one who scores the most number of cumulative WCF ranking points. The cumulative score will be the sum of the best two (2) results of each player in terms of WCF ranking points. Final and qualifying tournaments can be used to calculate the total points as per 3.1 and 4.1 above.

The overall winner of the World Chess Festival wins the title of “WCF Champion 2027” and an additional grant of USD 1,000 towards his/her participation in the next Continental Championship which is part of the World Chess Championship cycle.

5.2 Tie-Breaks for Overall Standings: In case of two or more players having equal cumulative points in the 1st place of the WCF overall standings, the following criteria (in descending order) will apply in order to determine the WCF Champion:

- Highest place in the WCF Final Tournament (after tie-breaks of the final tournament);
- Highest published standard rating at the start of the Final Tournament.

6. Commercial & Financial details

- 6.1** The commercial agency of WCF and WorldChessFestival.com have exclusive rights to the WCF Series, including each qualifying tournament. The commercial agency of WCF is free to exploit them commercially on its own or by implementing advertisement agreements, either with local Organisers or Sponsors.
- 6.2** Players can wear, use or display any apparel, footwear, accessory or other item, including but not limited to any piece of attire or any article that is bearing an identification of or advertising or otherwise promoting the player's sponsor, provided it does not carry any direct or indirect political message in favor of sanctioned states by USA, EU and the UK and advertised sponsors are in line with International Olympic Committee's (IOC) guidelines and regulations.
- 6.3** All broadcasting and media rights, including TV broadcast, internet transmission, video, film and data rights belong to the commercial agency of WCF. For qualifying tournaments, the managing director of WorldChessFestival.com, in agreement with the commercial agency of WCF, can assign all or part of these rights to local Organisers or Sponsors.
- 6.4** All rights to collect entry fees belong to the commercial agency of WCF. For qualifying tournaments, the managing director of WorldChessFestival.com, in agreement with the commercial agency of WCF, can assign all or part of these rights to local Organisers or Sponsors.
- 6.5** The local Organisers shall cover the following minimum organizing costs for each event:
- 6.5.1** Spacious playing hall in good standards for the participation of up to 150 players.
 - 6.5.2** Local event resources: arbiters, chess boards and clocks, tables, chairs, cups, medals, anti-cheating measures and any additional needs as per agreement with WCF.
 - 6.5.3** The tournament to be pre-registered by the respective national federation of the local Organiser for FIDE rating and subsequent submission of results to FIDE.
 - 6.5.4** The logo of WCF shall be visible in the top of the local tournament website, social media posts and tournament material (posters, press releases, etc). The tournament title of a qualifying event shall be "WCF ...Host City... Challenge" and below it "part of the World Chess Festival 2026-27". The WCF logo can co-exist with the local club or federation logo on an equally visible size.
 - 6.5.5** Photos of the event playing hall, participants and closing ceremony to be published on the WCF website and facebook social media.
 - 6.5.6** In connection with the entry fees as per article 6.3 above, an amount to be agreed upon with the commercial agency of WCF to cover partially or in whole the prize fund of each event and other expenses.

7. Clarification and Resolution of unforeseen issues

At any time in the course of applying the above regulations, circumstances that are not covered or any unforeseen issue will be decided and clarified by the managing director of WorldChessFestival.com or his/her authorized deputy.