

FIDE annual award

Suggested name of the award:

The FIDE Chess Oscar – to establish clear ownership and prestige from the start

Design of the FIDE Award:

To be newly created and approved

Categories & Awards:

- 1-2. Chess Player of the Year (Male and Female)
3. Tournament of the Year, Open and Round Robin (awarded to the Organizer, important note: not FIDE competitions)
4. Federation(s) of the Year
5. Chess Project(s) or Initiative(s) of the Year (can be included any initiatives – a book, a documentary, trainers' breakthrough, etc)

General Principles for All Categories:

Impact: The nominee's contribution must have had a significant, demonstrably positive impact on the chess world in the past year.

Excellence: The work or achievement must represent the highest standard of quality in its field.

Fair Play & Integrity: Nominees must uphold the spirit of sportsmanship and ethical conduct.

Stage 1: Public Nomination & Shortlist Creation

The Global chess community (federations, players, organizers, journalists, fans) will have the opportunity to nominate candidates for categories 3, 4, 5 except 1 and 2 (Chess Player of the Year, Male and Female) using an online form, along with the requested supplementary materials. The number of nominations is an important but not the only factor for inclusion in the shortlist. Criteria are listed below for each category.

The FIDE Working Group collects these nominations and creates a shortlist including best chess players based on pre-defined, objective criteria.

The shortlist is not a vote but a curated list of the most qualified candidates based on verifiable data and the volume of public support.

The final decision on the winners in all categories is made by a closed vote of the Awards Jury.

Important Updates:

- No Public Voting; public involvement is limited to the nomination process
- Multiple Winners: To ensure fair recognition of federations and projects of varying scales and resources, multiple awards (3-4) may be given in the following categories:
 - Federation of the Year (e.g., recognizing large federations and smaller, dynamic ones)
- Project of the Year (to recognize both large-scale projects and smaller initiatives)
- Tournament of the Year (to recognize both open and round-robin formats)
- Exclusion of FIDE Events: FIDE-owned or directly managed events are excluded from competition in the Tournament of the Year category to avoid conflicts of interest and ensure fairness.

1. Chess Oscar for Player of the Year (Male & Female)

Sporting Achievements: Primary weight on performance of the year.

Winning or podium finishes in major tournaments (World Championship, Candidates, Grand Prix, Grand Swiss, Super-Tournaments including private ones).

Rating: High performance rating, achieving or maintaining a significant positive rating change.

Activity: Must have participated in FIDE Circuit in the qualifying period, impactful public appearances, engagement in social or educational initiatives, a role model in fair play etc.

2. Chess Oscar for Tournaments of the Year

(Note: FIDE-owned events are excluded from this category, no public voting is engaged)

Organization: Flawless technical organization, venue, accommodation and playing conditions, record high participation rates & inclusiveness, side activities, special prize funds (e.g., equal prizes to women etc.).

Innovation: Implementation of new technologies (broadcast, anti-cheating), players' services.

Global reach & presentation: quality of live broadcast, commentary, and media coverage. Viewer numbers and social media engagement.

Subcategories for Recognition:

- Best Open Tournament
- Best Round-Robin Tournament

3. Chess Oscar for Federation(s) of the Year

(Note: no public voting is engaged)

Development: Measurable growth in registered players, clubs, certified trainers, arbiters, fair play officers, organizers, teachers and instructors; number of events.

Grassroots Programs: Success and scalability of national youth, school, and grassroots initiatives.

Elite Support: Successful funding and support for national top players (training, woman engagement, participation in international events).

Organizational Excellence: Hosting of well-regarded national and international events.

Inclusivity: Efforts to promote social chess (chess in schools, chess for prisoners, children with autism, people with disability, elderly groups for improving cognitive abilities, implementation of safeguarding policies).

Sustainable Impact: Probability that the initiated programs will have long-term benefits.

Several federations will be recognized for their exceptional contributions to the chess community, ranging from large scale investments by major federations to the innovation, inclusiveness, and dynamic development of smaller ones.

4. Chess Oscar for Project(s) of the Year

(Note: Multiple winners (3) will be selected to recognize projects of varying scales and impacts, no public voting is engaged)

Originality & Innovation: The project must offer a fresh, creative approach to chess (education, technology, media, art).

Reach & Engagement: Measurable audience size, user base, or participation numbers. Virality and social media impact.

Effectiveness: Success in achieving its stated goal (e.g., educational outcomes, funds raised,

awareness generated).

Production Quality: For books/films: quality of research, narrative, and production value. For tech: usability and design.

Passion & Vision: The driving idea behind the project and the dedication of its creators.

Cultural Impact: Did the project become a talking point beyond the core chess community?

Potential for Inspiration: Is it likely to inspire similar initiatives in other countries or fields?

Stage 2: Final Voting by the Distinguished Jury Panel (Selecting the Winners)

The jury evaluates the shortlist based on a broader, more subjective assessment of "greatness."

This two-tiered system ensures the shortlist is based on objective merit (Stage 1), while the final winner is chosen for their inspirational or cultural impact (Stage 2), making the Chess Oscar both a respected and prestigious award.

Role and composition of the working group and the jury during the whole process:

A) Workforce group (formed)

Task: Not to choose winners, but to administer the process.

Composition: up to 8 people from 2-3 representatives of FIDE MB, 2-3 representatives of FIDE Commissions and 1-2 from FIDE office.

Functions:

- Organizing the collection of nominations from the community (via an open form on the website).
- Checking nominations for compliance with formal criteria (e.g., the game must have been played in the current season).
- Forming a short list (3-5 contenders) for each category based on the votes/suggestions received. *Possibly: to avoid accusations of subjectivity, the shortlist could be formed automatically based on the number of mentions in the open vote.*
- Transferring the shortlist and all supporting materials (games, statistics, videos) to the Jury.
- Organizing the ceremony.

B) Role and Composition of the Jury

Task: To make the final decision on the winner in each category based on professional expert evaluation.

Key Principle: Independence.

Composition: up to 7 separate individuals:

- 2 chess players (male and female)
- 2 well-known journalists and commentators: those who have seen all the key tournaments of the year and can assess not only the result but also the context.
- 1 well-known trainer
- 2 representatives from the MB and the FIDE Council

Important: The jury composition must be announced publicly in advance. This will increase trust in the award.

C) Role of the FIDE Management Board and FIDE Council

Approving the Rules: FIDE MB and FIDE Council approve the award regulations before the process begins.

Approving the Jury Composition: The MB proposes, discusses, and officially approves the jury candidates suggested by the Working group.

Approving the Shortlist: The MB can conduct a final review of the shortlist proposed by the working group for compliance with the regulations (but not change it for subjective reasons).

Final "Approval": After the jury announces the winners, the MB and FC officially confirms the results.

Key points of a Procedure:

1. Announcement: The MB announces the award, categories, regulations, and later – the jury composition.
2. Nomination Gathering: open nomination submission from federations, players, bloggers, journalists, fans for all categories.
3. Working Group: Forms a shortlist based on formal criteria.
4. Shortlist Approval: The working group presents the shortlist to the MB for approval. The MB checks it for compliance with the regulations.
5. Jury's Work: The shortlist is passed to the jury. The jury conducts its voting/deliberation. Its deliberations can be confidential, but the voting results in numbers can be published later for transparency.
6. Announcing the Winners: The jury announces the winners at the ceremony.

In summary:

- The Community suggests options.
- The Working Group (from the MB) administers and systematizes.
- The Independent Jury (separate experts) makes the final decision.
- FIDE MB and FIDE FC approves the rules and oversees the process as a whole.

REGULATIONS FOR THE FIDE CHESS OSCAR AWARD

Approved by FIDE Council on xx/xx/2025

Applied from xx/xx/202x

1. General Provisions

1.1. The FIDE Chess Oscar (hereinafter referred to as "the Awards") are annual awards presented by the International Chess Federation (FIDE) to recognize and celebrate outstanding achievements and contributions in the world of chess during the calendar year.

1.2. The Awards aim to honor excellence in competitive play, tournament organization, federation development, and promotional initiatives.

2. Award Categories

2.1. The Awards are presented in the following categories:

- the best Chess Player of the year, male and female
- the best Tournaments of the year: most outstanding Open and Round Robin chess event(s)
- the best Federation(s) of the Year: National federation(s) with exceptional achievements and development efforts
- the best Chess Initiative(s) of the Year: Most innovative and impactful chess-related project(s) (educational, social, technological, etc.)

2.2. Additional honorary categories for special recognition may be announced annually at the discretion of the FIDE.

2.3. The nominee's contribution must have had a significant, demonstrably positive impact on the chess world in the past year.

2.4. The work or achievement must represent the highest standard of quality in its field.

Fair Play & Integrity: Nominees must uphold the spirit of sportsmanship and ethical conduct.

3. Governance and Oversight

3.1. The FIDE Chess Oscar Awards are under the ultimate authority and supervision of the FIDE Management Board (MB) and FIDE Council (FC). The FIDE MB and FIDE FC are responsible for:

- Final Approval: Ratifying these Regulations and any subsequent amendments to them.
- Endorsement: Formally endorsing the final list of winners as presented by the Working Group and the Awards Jury.

The FIDE MB is responsible for:

- Appointment Approval: Approving the composition of the Awards Working Group upon the proposal of the FIDE President.
- Conflict Resolution: Serving as the final instance for any disputes or ethical issues arising during the awarding process that cannot be resolved by the Working Group.

3.2. The Awards Working Group: The FIDE President, in consultation with the Management Board, shall appoint the Working Group. This group is responsible for the practical execution of the Awards, including:

- Administration: Organizing the nominations data collection, checking nominations for compliance with formal criteria and forming a short list for each category based on the votes/suggestions received.
- Logistics: Managing the timeline, communication with jurors.

- Ceremony Planning: Organizing the annual award ceremony.
- Reporting: Regularly reporting to the FIDE Management Board on the progress and outcomes of each stage.

3.3. The Awards Jury: The FIDE President, in consultation with the Management Board and the Working Group, shall appoint the Jury. It shall consist of separate individuals such as top chess players, leading international chess journalists and commentators, renowned trainers and arbiters, members of FIDE Council etc.

The full list of Jury members will be published not later than 2 months prior the Award Ceremony.

4. The Nomination Process (Stage 1: Data Collection)

4.1. General Procedure:

4.1.1. The Global chess community (federations, players, organizers, journalists, fans) will nominate candidates using a dedicated online form, along with the requested supplementary materials.

4.1.2. The Working Group, appointed by FIDE MB, will oversee the nomination process for all categories, administer and systematize.

4.1.3. Timeline for Phase 1:

Data & Proposal Collection: 1 (one) month

Data Panel Deliberation: 2 (two) weeks

Publication of Shortlists: Not later than 2 (two) months prior the Award Ceremony.

4.2. Category-Specific Shortlisting Criteria:

Chess Oscar for Player of the Year (Male & Female)

Shortlist of 10 male and 10 female players in total based on objective criteria:

Sporting Achievements: Primary weight on performance of the year.

Winning or podium finishes in major tournaments (World Championship, Candidates, Grand Prix, Grand Swiss, Super-Tournaments including private ones)

Rating: High performance rating, achieving or maintaining a significant positive rating change

Activity: Must have participated in FIDE Circuit in the qualifying period, impactful public appearances, engagement in social or educational initiatives, a role model in fair play etc.

Chess Oscar for Tournament of the Year (Note: FIDE-owned events are excluded from this category)

Shortlist of 10 events for each subcategory based on:

Organization: Flawless technical organization, venue, accommodation and playing conditions, record high participation rates & inclusiveness, side activities, special prize funds (e.g., equal prizes to women etc.).

Innovation: Implementation of new technologies (broadcast, anti-cheating), players' services.

Global reach & presentation: quality of live broadcast, commentary, and media coverage. Viewer numbers and social media engagement.

Subcategories for Recognition:

- Best Open Tournament
- Best Round-Robin Tournament

Chess Oscar for Federation of the Year

Federation of the Year: Shortlist of 10 federations based on:

Development: Measurable growth in registered players, clubs, certified trainers, arbiters, fair

play officers, organizers, teachers and instructors; number of events.

Grassroots Programs: Success and scalability of national youth, school, and grassroots initiatives.

Elite Support: Successful funding and support for national top players (training, woman engagement, participation in international events).

Organizational Excellence: Hosting of well-regarded national and international events.

Inclusivity: Efforts to promote social chess (chess in schools, chess for prisoners, children with autism, people with disability, elderly groups for improving cognitive abilities, implementation of safeguarding policies).

Sustainable Impact: Probability that the initiated programs will have long-term benefits.

Chess Oscar for Project/Initiative of the Year

Shortlist of 10 initiatives:

Originality & Innovation: The project must offer a fresh, creative approach to chess (education, technology, media, art).

Reach & Engagement: Measurable audience size, user base, or participation numbers. Virality and social media impact.

Effectiveness: Success in achieving its stated goal (e.g., educational outcomes, funds raised, awareness generated).

Production Quality: For books/films: quality of research, narrative, and production value. For tech: usability and design.

Passion & Vision: The driving idea behind the project and the dedication of its creators.

Cultural Impact: Did the project become a talking point beyond the core chess community?

Potential for Inspiration: Is it likely to inspire similar initiatives in other countries or fields?

5. The Jury evaluation and Voting Procedure (Stage 2: Deliberation)

5.1. Voting Procedure:

- Secret ballot voting for all categories.
- Jurors rank nominees in each category (e.g., 1st place = 10 points, 2nd = 9 points, etc. for 10-nominee categories)
- An auditor elected within the Jury tallies votes
- Winner in each category is the nominee with the highest total points.
- Tie-breaks: Determined by most first-place votes, then second-place, etc.

5.2. Timeline for Phase 2:

Voting Period for the Jury: 2 (two) weeks. Vote Tallying and Verification: 1 (one) week.

Winner Confirmation and Notification: Not later than 1 (one) month prior the Award Ceremony.

6. Award Ceremony

6.1. The winner of the FIDE Chess Oscars will be announced at a dedicated Award Ceremony.

6.2. The Ceremony will be a public event, broadcasted globally.

6.3. Trophy design, ceremony format, dates and host location will be determined by FIDE.

6.4. The Winner of each category will be awarded a trophy (except the best Tournament(s) of the year, as there are 2 subcategories, Open and Round Robin), the Nominees (2nd, 3rd place, if any) will be awarded a medal. All awardees will also receive diplomas.

7. Award Acceptance and Delivery

7.1. Winners are expected to attend the award ceremony.

7.2. Winners unable to attend must notify the Awards Working Group in writing no later than 15 days before the ceremony.

7.3. Winners who do not attend may authorize a proxy to accept the award on their behalf. This

authorization must be provided in writing to the Awards Working Group.

7.4. Unclaimed awards will be stored by the Awards Working Group for a period of one (1) year following the ceremony. The Awards Working Group will coordinate with the winner to arrange secure delivery at FIDE' expense.

7.5. Should a winner make no effort to claim their award within one (1) year, the award is considered forfeited. The trophy may be retired, but the title of award winner will remain in the official record.

8. Final Clauses

8.1. FIDE reserves the right to amend these Regulations in exceptional circumstances, with any changes being communicated transparently.

8.2. The decisions of the Working Group and the Jury are final and are not subject to appeal.

8.3. Participation in the voting process implies full acceptance of these Regulations.