

Regulations for the FIDE World Championship Match 2026

Geneva, 22 November – 13 December

1. Scope

- 1. 1.** The FIDE World Championship Match 2026 shall be organised from 22 November to 13 December 2026 in Geneva.
- 1. 2.** The governing Body and Organiser is the International Chess Federation (FIDE).
- 1. 3.** FIDE Global Strategy Commission (hereinafter referred to as GSC) is in charge of preparing Regulations, communicating with the Organiser and the participants and conducting inspections.
- 1. 4.** The body responsible for adopting and changing these Regulations is the FIDE Council, upon recommendation by GSC.
- 1. 5.** At any time, any circumstance or unforeseen situation not covered in these Regulations shall be referred to the FIDE President for the final decision.

2. Participation

- 2. 1.** The World Championship Match is the match between the reigning World Champion GM Gukesh D and his challenger – GM Javokhir Sindarov, the winner of the FIDE Candidates Tournament 2026.
- 2. 2.** If the World Champion or the Challenger withdraws for any reason, he shall be replaced by GM Anish Giri, the runner-up of the FIDE Candidates Tournament 2026.
- 2. 3.** If further replacement is needed, GM Fabiano Caruana, the player who finished third in the FIDE Candidates Tournament 2026 shall be invited.
- 2. 4.** If any further replacement is required, the player with the best rating in the FIDE September 2026 Standard rating list shall be invited. This player shall have at least 50 games counted in twelve FRL from October 2025 to September 2026.
In case of equal ratings, the following criteria, in order of priority, shall decide:
 - The number of rated games in the FIDE Standard rating lists from October 2025 to September 2026: the player who has played more games qualifies.
 - Drawing of lots.

3. Confirmation of Participation

- 3. 1.** Each player receives his contract by email. Each player shall sign and send his contract to the FIDE Office by email by the deadline specified in the contract. Additional contracts between the Organiser and the players may be signed if needed.
- 3. 2.** A player who does not submit his contract before the deadline shall be replaced according to [Articles 2.2 – 2.4](#). FIDE may accept late contracts received after the deadline only for reasons FIDE President considers to be admissible.
- 3. 3.** A player who signs his contract but withdraws shall be replaced by a player as described in [Articles 2.2 – 2.4](#).
- 3. 4.** A player who fails to provide a satisfactory reason for withdrawal after he has signed the player's contract may be sanctioned by the FIDE Council.

4. Technical Regulations

4. 1. Format

The World Championship Match consists of fourteen games.

4. 2. Time control and default time

4. 2. 1. The games are played using electronic clocks and boards approved by FIDE.

4. 2. 2. The time control for each game is 120 minutes for the first 40 moves, followed by 30 minutes for the rest of the game with an increment of 30 seconds per move starting from move 41.

4. 2. 3. A player who arrives in the playing area after the actual start time of the game shall lose this game by default.

4. 3. Draw by mutual agreement

The players cannot draw a game by agreement before black's 40th move. A claim for a draw before the completion of black's 40th move is permitted only through the Chief Arbiter or his/her Deputy in case of threefold repetition (Article 9.2 of [the FIDE Laws of Chess](#), FIDE Handbook E.01) or a stalemate.

4. 4. Conditions of victory

4. 4. 1. The player who scores 7.5 points or more wins the World Championship Match. No further games shall be played. If the score after fourteen games is equal, the tie-break shall be played as described in [Article 4.4.2](#).

4. 4. 2. Tie-break

4. 4. 2. 1. The tie-break games shall be played in accordance with Appendix A4 and Appendix B2 of [the FIDE Laws of Chess](#) (FIDE Handbook E.01).

4. 4. 2. 2. A four-game playoff shall be played with a time control of 15 minutes + 10 seconds increment per move, starting from move 1. There shall be a drawing of lots to decide which player starts with white.

4. 4. 2. 3. If the score is still level after the four-game playoff described in [Article 4.4.2.2](#), after a new drawing of lots, a two-game playoff shall be played with a time control of 10 minutes + 5 seconds increment per move, starting from move 1.

4. 4. 2. 4. If the score is still level after the playoff described in [Article 4.4.2.3](#), after a new drawing of lots, a two-game playoff shall be played with a time control of 3 minutes + 2 seconds increment per move, starting from move 1.

4. 4. 2. 5. If the score is still level after the playoff described in [Article 4.4.2.4](#), after a new drawing of lots, a single game shall be played with a time control of 3 minutes for each player + 2 seconds increment per move, starting from move 1.

4. 4. 2. 6. If the game in [Article 4.4.2.5](#) is drawn, another game shall be played with a time control of 3 minutes for each player + 2 seconds increment per move, starting from move 1 with the colours reversed.

4. 4. 2. 7. If the game in [Article 4.4.2.6](#) is drawn, the procedure described in [Article 4.4.2.6](#) shall be applied until a game is played with a decisive result.

4. 4. 2. 8. If a game has ended by resignation, checkmate, time loss, stalemate, triple repetition or any other of the ways described in the Article 5 of [the FIDE Laws of Chess](#) (FIDE Handbook E.01), no claim for irregularities are accepted (irregularities include clock settings and all other described in the Article 7 of [the FIDE Laws of Chess](#) (FIDE Handbook E.01))

4. 4. 2. 9. There shall be a pause of 10 minutes between all tie-break games, unless the Chief Arbiter decides otherwise.

4. 5. Prizes

4. 5. 1. The prize fund provided by the Organiser is two million five hundred (2,500,000) USD net of any applicable local taxes.

4. 5. 2. The prize fund shall be divided as follows:

- a) Each player shall receive two hundred thousand (200,000) USD for each game won (including games won by forfeit), except the cases described in [Article 4.5.2. b\)](#). The remaining balance of the prize fund shall be split equally between the players.
- b) If the final score is 7,5:6,5 with 13 decisive games or 8:6 with 14 decisive games, the prize money shall be divided as follows: the winner receives one million three hundred thousand (1,300,000) USD, the runner-up receives one million two hundred thousand (1,200,000) USD.
- c) If the winner is decided on tie-break, the prize money shall be divided as follows: the winner receives one million three hundred thousand (1,300,000) USD, the runner-up receives one million two hundred thousand (1,200,000) USD.

4. 5. 3. One month before the first game of the World Championship Match, each player shall receive two hundred thousand (200,000) USD. This amount shall be deducted from the prize fund. The remaining balance shall be remitted to the players within thirty working days after the completion of the World Championship Match.

4. 6. Schedule

4. 6. 1.

DAY	TIME	EVENT
20 November	N/A	Arrivals
22 November	TBD	Media Day, Opening Ceremony
23 November	TBD	Media Day, Technical Meeting
24 November	3:00 pm	Round 1
25 November	3:00 pm	Round 2
26 November	3:00 pm	Round 3
27 November	N/A	Free Day
28 November	3:00 pm	Round 4
29 November	3:00 pm	Round 5
30 November	3:00 pm	Round 6
1 December	N/A	Free Day
2 December	3:00 pm	Round 7
3 December	3:00 pm	Round 8
4 December	3:00 pm	Round 9
5 December	N/A	Free Day
6 December	3:00 pm	Round 10
7 December	3:00 pm	Round 11
8 December	3:00 pm	Round 12
9 December	N/A	Free Day
10 December	3:00 pm	Round 13
11 December	3:00 pm	Round 14
12 December	TBD	Tie-break (if needed) & Closing Ceremony
13 December	N/A	Departures

* If the winner is decided in less than fourteen (14) games (see [Article 4.4.1](#)), the match shall be over and the Organiser and FIDE can agree to re-schedule the Closing Ceremony for an earlier date.

4. 6. 2. No postponement of any game is allowed.

4. 6. 3. The schedule may be changed only upon approval of FIDE President.

4. 7. Travel and Accommodation

4. 7. 1. The Organiser shall contribute an amount of four thousand and five hundred (4,500) USD towards the travel costs of each player's team.

4. 7. 2. The Organiser shall provide each player with free accommodation with full board (in all Articles of these Regulations the full board may be substituted by a daily allowance, the amount to be agreed between the Organiser and GSC) in a two-room junior suite in an official (at least 4-stars) hotel.

4. 7. 3. The Organiser shall provide free accommodation with full board in standard single rooms for two members of each player's team in the same hotel as the players.

4. 7. 4. Each player shall be provided with the rooms mentioned in [Articles 4.7.2 – 4.7.3](#) for up to twenty-four nights (four days prior to the first round – departure day).

4. 8. Playing Venue

4. 8. 1. GSC shall ensure the playing venue and its surrounding areas meet the requirements of [the Basic Guidelines For Playing Venues Of FIDE Top-Level Tournaments](#) (FIDE Handbook C.01), amended by GSC if needed.

4. 8. 2. The playing venue shall be decorated with the FIDE flag, the flag of the host and the participating federations.

4. 8. 3. The Players may inspect the playing venue in the presence of representatives of GSC, the FIDE Technical Delegate and the Organiser, two days before the first game of the World Championship Match. The Organiser endeavours to satisfy all reasonable requests of the players.

4. 8. 4. The Organiser provides, free of charge, coffee, tea, soft drinks and snacks for the players, the FIDE Principals, VIPs and accredited media.

4. 8. 5. The Organiser provides a special VIP zone according to requirements to be specified in the contract.

4. 9. Drawing of Colours

The draw for colours shall be conducted during the Opening Ceremony or during another special Ceremony if FIDE decides to organise such ceremony in another time or place. The player who gets white in the first game shall have white in all odd standard games.

4. 10. Playing Conditions

4. 10. 1. [The FIDE Fair Play Regulations](#) (FIDE Handbook A.09.1) and [The Fair Play Protection Measures for the Events Requiring Maximum Protection](#) (FIDE Handbook A.09.2.1.a) shall be applied.

4. 10. 2. Except with the permission of the Chief Arbiter, only the players, the FIDE Principals, media professional from the organising team, and stewards are allowed in the playing area. The players may communicate with an arbiter or a steward. A limited number of graphic journalists might be allowed during the first 5 minutes, depending on the characteristics of the playing area.

4. 10. 3. Players' rest lounge area should be visible by the Chief Arbiter. The rules of accessibility of the rest lounge area for viewing by other persons, the order of video recording of what is happening in the rest lounge area and the use of such recordings are additionally determined by FIDE, taking into account the opinion of the players and other circumstances worthy of attention.

4. 10. 4. The players shall arrive at the playing area at least ten minutes before the beginning of the game for the security check.

4. 10. 5. The players are not permitted to bring into the playing area a telephone, technical and other equipment extraneous to play, which may in any way disturb or upset the opponent. The Chief Arbiter decides what constitutes extraneous equipment disturbing the opponent.

4. 10. 6. While his game is in progress, a player may leave the playing venue only with the permission of the Chief Arbiter and only if he is accompanied by one of the arbiters.

4. 10. 7. For any infringement of [Articles 4.10.4., 4.10.5. and 4.10.6.](#) a fine of up to ten thousand (10,000) USD can be imposed on the player.

4. 10. 8. The anti-doping test procedure shall be regulated by the FIDE Medical Commission according to WADA requirements.

4. 10. 9. The Organiser has to fulfil the requirements of the medical protocol as per standards of the FIDE Medical Commission and host country requirements.

4. 11. Scoresheets

4. 11. 1. The Organiser shall provide scoresheets according to the specifications provided by GSC.

4. 11. 2. At the end of each game the players' original scoresheets shall be submitted to the Chief Arbiter, who shall hand them to FIDE. Refusal of either player to sign the scoresheets shall be penalised according Article 12.9 of [the FIDE Laws of Chess](#) (FIDE Handbook E.01). After the players have signed the scoresheets, the Arbiter shall countersign those to confirm the results.

4. 12. Players' Conduct

4. 12. 1. Dress code: neat shirt and formal suit. The dress code is strictly observed: no player with an inappropriate dress shall be allowed in the playing zone. Any requests to wear national or traditional dress shall be approved by GSC.

4. 12. 2. The players are required to attend the Technical Meeting. If necessary, the Chief Arbiter may call additional Technical Meetings.

4. 12. 3. The players must be present at all official functions approved by GSC during the World Championship Match, including official receptions, the Opening and the Closing Ceremonies.

4. 12. 4. The players are expected to cooperate with the media. Interviews requests will be passed on to them through the FIDE Press Officer.

4. 12. 5. The players must be available for the Opening press conference, and make themselves available to attend media requests during the "Media Day" for a period of time stipulated by their respective contracts, the day before the first game of the match. They also must attend the daily press conferences, of not more than 30 minutes duration, immediately after each game.

4. 12. 6. The players must attend the final press conference after the event has ended and provide an exclusive interview for the Match and the FIDE websites and not less than five media outlets if requested by the FIDE Press Officer.

4. 12. 7. The players are obliged to participate in at least two promotional events of the Match, the World Championship cycle and FIDE, including events with the participation of FIDE partners and sponsors, free of charge (without receiving additional fees), but with applicable expenses covered by FIDE. Exact conditions for such events shall be determined by FIDE in personal contracts with the participants of the Match.

The players shall also fulfil other media and promotional duties indicated in their contracts.

4. 12. 8. If a player undermines the reputation of FIDE, the CT Organiser and sponsors, other players, hosting country or city or conducts himself in a manner contrary to the spirit of sportsmanship, he shall be penalised in accordance with [the FIDE Ethics & Disciplinary Code](#) (FIDE Handbook A.08).

4. 13. FIDE Principals

The FIDE Principals are:

- a) FIDE President;
- b) FIDE Deputy President;
- c) Tournament Director
- a) Chief Arbiter
- b) Deputy Chief Arbiter/Fair Play Officer;
- c) FIDE Technical Delegate-Chairman of the Appeals Committee;
- d) Two Appeal Committee members;
- e) FIDE Press Officer and his/her Deputy;
- f) Member of the FIDE Medical Commission (if needed);
- g) Two GSC members (if needed).

4. 14. Arbiters

4. 14. 1. GSC is responsible for appointing the Chief Arbiter and Deputy Chief Arbiter/ Fair-Play Officer in accordance with [the Regulations for the appointments of Arbiters in World Events](#) (FIDE Handbook B.06.04). These appointments shall be approved by FIDE President.

4. 14. 2. During play, either the Chief Arbiter or his/her Deputy shall be present in the playing area.

4. 14. 3. Within one week after the end of the event, the Chief Arbiter shall submit a report in English to GSC. If there were any difficulties, conflicts or incidents, they should be described together with the measures taken to deal with them.

4. 15. Appeals Committee

4. 15. 1. The Appeals Committee shall be appointed and act in accordance with the [Appeals Committee Procedural Rules](#) (FIDE Handbook, C11).

4. 15. 2. Each protest shall be accompanied by a deposit fee of three thousand (3,000) USD or the equivalent in local currency. If the protest is accepted, the fee shall be returned. If the protest is rejected, the fee may be forfeited to FIDE.

4. 15. 3. The Chairman of the Appeal Committee shall also fulfil duties of FIDE Technical Delegate (see [Article 4.16](#)).

4. 16. FIDE Technical Delegate

4. 16. 1. The FIDE Technical Delegate is above the Organising Committee in all issues involving:

- a) fairness concerning the treatment of both players in respect of organisational issues;
- b) equal playing conditions;
- c) fair-play measures;
- d) fair publicity of both players through the FIDE Press Officer.

4. 16. 2. The FIDE Technical Delegate can request, at the Organiser's expense, any additional security arrangement he finds necessary in order to secure a fair Match and equal conditions for the players.

4. 16. 3. The Organiser shall implement the decisions of the FIDE Technical Delegate in all issues involving the above aspects before and during the FIDE World Championship Match 2026.

4. 16. 4. Any decision of the FIDE Technical Delegate before the Match can be appealed by one of the Players only to the FIDE President. Any decision of the FIDE Technical Delegate after the start of the Match can be appealed by one of the Players only to the Appeals Committee.

4. 17. Ceremonies

4. 17. 1. The Opening Ceremony shall take place two days prior to the first game.

4. 17. 2. The program of the Opening Ceremony shall be approved by FIDE Technical Delegate. Such approval

shall not be unreasonably withheld. The cultural programs and speeches will have a duration of approximately 60 minutes. The FIDE Anthem and the Anthem of the hosting country are played.

4.17.3. The Closing Ceremony shall take place on the day of the tie-break day or one day thereafter (see [Article 4.6.1.](#)). A victory garland, a FIDE trophy and FIDE medals (gold and silver) shall be provided by the Organiser. The garland, the trophy and the medals shall be approved by FIDE Technical Delegate. The FIDE Anthem, the Anthem of the winner's country and the Anthem of the hosting country shall be played.

5. Media

5.1. Website

The Organiser is responsible for managing, updating and reviewing the official web domain which is used for the event: <https://worldchampionship.fide.com>.

5.2. Communications

5.2.1. All official written communications, in print or online form, as well as activities, shall identify FIDE as the Governing Body of the FIDE World Championship Match 2026.

5.2.2. Official communications shall use the official name for the event, in full: FIDE World Championship Match 2026 or another name approved by FIDE.

5.2.3. All pre-tournament public communications regarding FIDE World Championship Match 2026 (e.g. joint press releases from FIDE and the Organiser) shall be co-written, scheduled in coordination, and approved with/by the FIDE Head of PR. FIDE Head of PR will also oversee all official audiovisual materials created around the event, from branding and designs to promotional materials.

5.3. Press Officer Designated by FIDE

5.3.1. GSC shall appoint the Press Officer for the FIDE World Championship Match 2026. The Organiser shall cooperate with the Press Officer regarding the accreditation and hospitality for journalists and media and the facilities available at the Press Centre that the Organiser chooses to provide and assists him/her in establishing contacts with the local media.

5.3.2. All content shown at <https://worldchampionship.fide.com> shall be reviewed and approved by the FIDE Head of PR (before the event), or the Press Officer (during the event). All live images, live broadcasting (Internet TV) pictures and all the other content for the full event are carried on official domains, plus any other web domain that has been agreed between the Organiser and GSC prior to the FIDE World Championship Match 2026. In cases of conflicting information and press statements, the views expressed by the Press Officer shall be the authentic version.

5.3.3. The Organiser shall warrant that <https://worldchampionship.fide.com> is managed in a professional way and, furthermore, that it is capable of handling the traffic and publicity that is required for such events. Statistics of traffic and full reports on web performance shall be provided to GSC.

5.3.4. The Press Officer shall report to the FIDE Head of PR.

5.4. Photography and Video

5.4.1. Only photographers and camera crew explicitly authorised by the Press Officer or the FIDE Head of PR may work in the playing venue.

5.4.2. Television cameras shall try to minimise any inconvenience for the players and may only be allowed if the Chief Arbiter deems their use to be unobtrusive.

5.4.3. The use of flash is not allowed. An exception could be made by the Press Officer only if the particularities of the venue force the photographers to stay more than six meters away from the players. Even in those exceptional circumstances, it is restricted to the first five minutes of standard games, the first three minutes of rapid games and the first minute of blitz games (for eventual tie-break games).

6. Financial Issues

6. 1. Direct Expenses Reimbursements

FIDE shall be reimbursed for its direct expenses incurred in the organisation of the World Championship Match 2026. The amount and term shall be agreed in the contract between the Organiser and FIDE. This sum includes pre-expenses (inspections), stipends, traveling expenses for the FIDE Principals and other expenses mentioned in these Regulations and the contract.

6. 2. Expenses of the FIDE Operational Team

The Organiser shall cover all the expenses of the FIDE operational team involved in the organisation of the World Championship Match 2026 (travelling, accommodation, remuneration) in accordance with the contract signed between the Organiser and FIDE.

6. 3. Stipends

The stipends to be paid to the FIDE Principals of the World Championship Match 2026 by the Organiser in euros:

Principal	Stipend	Number	Sum
Tournament Director	7,200	1	7,200
Chief Arbiter	5,800	1	5,800
Deputy Chief Arbiter / Fair Play Officer	4,800	1	4,800
FIDE Technical Delegate - Chairman of the Appeals Committee	4,800	1	4,800
Member of the Appeals Committee	3,300	2	6,600
Press Officer	4,800	1	4,800
Deputy Press Officer	3,300	1	3,300
Member of the FIDE Medical Commission (5 days)	1,000	1	1,000
TOTAL			38,300

6. 4. Travel Expenses of the FIDE Principals

The FIDE President has the right to business class travel by air, sea or rail, at the Organiser's expense. All other FIDE Principals are compensated by the Organiser for their travel expenses up to a maximum of one thousand (1,000) euros if travelling from the same continent, up to one thousand five hundred (1,500) euros if travelling from another continent, unless other conditions are agreed in the contract between the Organiser and FIDE.

6. 5. Accommodation of the FIDE Principals and Media Team

Accommodation with full board in a suite in an official hotel approved by FIDE shall be offered by the Organiser for the FIDE President. Accommodation with full board in a standard single room shall be offered by the Organiser for each Principal in the same hotel. Extra expenses shall be covered by the Organiser only for the FIDE President. The Organiser in cooperation with the FIDE Press Officer shall provide a total number of thirty hotel nights with full board in an official hotel for FIDE media team.

6. 6. Broadcast and Commentary

6. 6. 1. The Organiser is responsible for covering all the expenses related to the high-quality live Internet broadcast on the official website <https://worldchampionship.fide.com>

6. 6. 2. The Organiser is responsible for covering all the expenses related to the team of commentators.

6. 7. Local Transportation

The Organiser shall provide transfer from and to the airport, if necessary. A sufficient number of cars shall be

made available for FIDE Principals; their use shall depend on the position of the hotels, playing hall and media centre. Alternatively, a daily allowance in local currency may be provided; the amount shall be agreed upon between the Organiser and GSC. Local transport shall also be provided for the players to official functions, if necessary.

6. 8. Personnel

The Organiser shall provide sufficient personnel to assist in the playing venue, press room, VIP room, and at Ceremonies and at Ceremonies according to the contract between the Organiser and FIDE.

6. 9. Fair-play Measures

The Organiser shall cover the costs associated with implementing the fair play regulations according to the contract between the Organiser and FIDE.

6. 10. Budget

The Organiser shall produce a detailed budget for the event, which shall be approved by GSC.

7. Commercial Issues

7. 1. FIDE retains all commercial and media rights of the event, including internet. These rights can be granted by FIDE to the Organiser on conditions specified in the contract signed between FIDE and the Organiser.

7. 2. The radio and television rights, including photo, video and film rights, belong to FIDE. These rights can be granted by FIDE to the Organiser on conditions specified in the contract signed between FIDE and the Organiser.

7. 3. FIDE has exclusive rights for live game transmission on the Internet. FIDE shall provide the Organiser the signal for online game display in the different function rooms as agreed between the parties. These rights, as described here, can be granted by FIDE to the Organiser.

7. 4. FIDE has the right to enter into advertisement agreements either with the Organiser or Sponsors of the event requiring players to wear attire with sponsors' branding.

7. 5. Players shall not 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 of an accessory nature (*e.g.* bag, eyewear, arm bands, gloves, socks, charms, beverage bottles etc.), bearing an identification of or advertising or otherwise promoting the players' sponsors, without prior written permission by FIDE. The conditions for such permission shall be specified in the contracts with Players.

7. 6. No proposed sponsor shall be in conflict with the regulations of the International Olympic Committee.

7. 7. The FIDE logo and the head of the corporate logo are displayed below:



The FIDE logo is displayed in a black on a white background, or its inverse, white over a solid-colour background.

APPENDIX

Useful Links

FIDE Laws of Chess taking effect from 1 January 2023 – <https://handbook.fide.com/chapter/E012023>