



MALDIVES CHESS ASSOCIATION

Sports Complex (Kulhivaru Ekuveni), Male', Republic of Maldives
Tel; (+960) 7310073, Email; maldiveschessassociation@gmail.com

National Club Chess Championship 2026

An event organized by Maldives Chess Association

Tournament Rules and Regulations

National Club Chess Championship 2026 organized by Maldives Chess Association is endorsed by the Sports Commissioner Ministry of Sports, Fitness and Recreation of the Maldives. We take the honor to invite all the Member Clubs & Associate Member Clubs to participate in this tournament.

1. Participation

- a) Member Clubs - Clubs registered under Commissioner of Sports and Maldives Chess Association)
- b) Associate Members – Clubs formed under government office and companies.
- c) As stated in Article 11.2 of the Articles of Association, clubs that have not paid the annual fee shall not be eligible to participate.

2. Format

Like previous years, the tournament will be held OTB (over the board). This will be a FIDE-Rated tournament.

3. Team Composition

A team is made up of four players plus one reserve player.

- a) Each team should appoint a Team Captain. The minimum number of players that could compete as a team shall be 2 players.
- b) Team captain should turn in his team line-up on or before the time specified for each round by the tournament arbiter or the tournament director.
- c) Team captain must ensure his team arrives on time.
- d) Team Captain should check whether his team is playing at the correct board and check the team pairings.
- e) Team captains should attend the technical meeting.

4. Team Registration and Lineup Submission

- a) The registration fee per team is MVR 2000 for this tournament.
- b) Team registration form should be filled and submitted by on or before **12th June 2026**.
- c) Late Registration not accepted.
- d) Documents required for registration
 - i. Team Application Form
 - ii. Players List with ID copies



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- iii. Club registration copy (new members clubs or new associate member clubs)
- e) Each team must submit a roster, prior 30 minutes to Round 1, indicating the fixed lineup.
- f) A team may not deviate from its given roster after sign-up.
- g) When reserve player play, they must do so starting on the lowest boards. Any regular team member may sit out when a reserve player plays; other team members move up accordingly.

5. Tournament Format

The tournament will be maximum nine rounds. The pairing will be done using either SWISS (if more than 10 teams) OR Round Robin (if the number of teams are 10 or below).

- a) The Swiss Manager shall be used as the pairing program. No other pairing program shall be used.
- b) The first-round pairing shall be done after the conclusion of the Technical Meeting.
- c) Time Control: Standard Chess; 1 hour 30 minutes with 30 seconds increment from Move 1.
- d) Scoring: match points (2 points for a win, 1 point for a draw, 0 points for a loss). Game points: 1 point for a win, 0.5 point for a draw and 0 point for a loss. Ranking will be based on the Match Points scored by the team. In case of any tie in Match Points score, the following tie-break shall be applied: -
 - IF pairing was done using Round Robin:
 - Game points (total number of game points scored by a team)
 - Direct encounter
 - Sonneborn-Berger
 - If pairing was done using SWISS
 - Game points (total number of game points scored by a team)
 - Direct encounter
 - Buchholz Cut 1
 - Buchholz
 - Sonneborn-Berger.
 - If no definitive winner is selected from tie breaks, a rapid match will be held Lots are drawn to decide the colors between teams
 - The team who wins the lots may choose the color. Time Control: 15mins 10 second increment
 - If no definitive winner is selected from above tie breaks, a sudden death match will be held
 - Lots are drawn to decide the colors between teams The team who wins the



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lots may choose the color.

White shall get five minutes [5m] and Black shall get four minutes [4m], No increments.

- In the event of a draw, Black is declared the winner

6. Rules

- FIDE Laws of Chess for Standard Chess applies.
- This is a zero-tolerance tournament and hence a player not in his/her designated seat when a round starts, shall lose the game. Official round-times are based on the time shown at the playing venue.
- The touch-move rule applies.
- The score-sheets are mandatory.
- A player should not annoy or distract their opponent in any way. A player may only talk to their opponent to offer a draw or to declare their intention to adjust a piece.
- A player shall not discuss their game with anyone while the game is in progress.
- A player shall not leave the playing venue while their game is in progress without the permission of the arbiter.
- A player shall not bring an electronic device to the playing area while a round is in progress.
- A player shall not be a source of noise in the playing area.
- Behavior and language that disrupts the sports-conducive environment of the playing area shall not be tolerated.
- A player whose game is finished is considered a spectator and shall leave the playing area as soon as possible.
- A player shall not do anything that will bring the game of chess into disrepute.
- A player shall not be a source of obstruction of the chief arbiter's/arbiter's duty. The arbiter's duty includes [among others] the following:
 - Ensuring fair play
 - Ensuring that a good playing environment is maintained
 - Ensuring that the players are not disturbed
- Supplementary Rules and Regulations by the Organizer.
- All officials & players should be smartly attired in the tournament hall.
- The decision of the Tournament Director and Chief Arbiter with regard to the running of the tournament is FINAL.
- Only 4 players shall play in each round in accordance with the Board Order verified by respective Team Captain during Players / Team Manager Meeting.

7. Schedule

- Closing date for registration of teams by 12th June 2026 23:59 hrs.
- Technical meeting will be held on **14th June 2026, 20:30 @Hulhumale Chess Arcade**



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- c) **The tournament will be held from 15th June – 25th June 2026, both dates inclusive.**
- d) Closing Ceremony will be held **on 26th June 2026. There might be a slight change in this date.**
- e) There will be 1 round per day.
- f) The Organizer shall publish the result of the previous round within 15 minutes from the end of last game of the previous round.
- g) The Organizer shall give at least 12 hours break between the publishing of previous round result and next round pairing to allow participating clubs to perform result verification.
- h) Any protest on the result must be done within this time frame.
- i) The Organizer shall publish the result of the final round within 30 minutes from the end of last game of the final round.

8. Medals and Awards

- a) All clubs get participation certificates.
- b) 1st Place (Winner)
 - i. Cash price MVR 25,000 (Twenty-Five Thousand Only)
 - ii. Gold medal for all players
 - iii. Certificates for club and players
- c) 2nd Place (Runners-up)
 - i. Cash price MVR 10,000 (Ten Thousand Only)
 - ii. Silver medals for all players
 - iii. Certificates for club and players
- d) 3rd Place (Second runners-up)
 - i. Cash price MVR 5,000 (Five Thousand Only)
 - ii. Bronze medals for all players
 - iii. Certificates for club and players

9. Tournament Venue

The Playing Venue will be **Chess Arcade, Sports Complex 2nd floor , Hulhumale**

10. Arbiters

Maldives Chess Association shall appoint either FIDE Arbiter (FA) or a National Arbiter (NA) as Chief Arbiter of the tournament.

Organizer is allowed to appoint any number of Assistant Arbiter to facilitate the running of the tournament.

11. Penalties

Penalties for violations of the above requirements shall be determined by the chief arbiter/arbiter as per the FIDE Laws of Chess. Arbiters may choose penalties among



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the following options:

1. Warning
2. Increase the remaining time of the opponent
3. Reducing the remaining time of the offender
4. Increasing the points scored in the game by the opponent to the maximum [1point] for that game
5. Reducing the points scored in the game by the offender
6. Declaring the game to be lost for the offender. The arbiter shall also decide the opponent's score
7. A fine between MVR 500 and MVR 2000
8. Expulsion from the tournament

In the event a player is dissatisfied with the chief arbiter's/arbiter's decision, he/she has the right to appeal to the Appeals Committee.

A player may also incur penalties from the Federation/Organizers themselves depending on the severity of an infringement. These include fines and bans from future tournaments, events and activities hosted by the Federation/Organizers.

12. The Appeals Committee

The Appeals Committee comprises of five [5] members: the chief arbiter, chief organizer and three players from amongst participating players or captains elected at the Technical Meeting. Each office may only have one player on the appeals committee.

Protests shall be filed in writing to the Appeals Committee with a protest-fee of MRF 500. This fee is refundable if the protest is justified and upheld.

The decisions of the Appeals Committee are final.

13. Forfeits/withdrawals/expulsions

1. If a team fails to attend two consecutive rounds, they shall be expelled from the tournament.
2. If a team has completed fifty percent [50 %] of their games, their score shall remain in the tournament table and shall be counted in the final standings. If a team has not completed fifty percent [50 %] of their games, their score shall not be counted in the final standings, although their score would still remain in the tournament table. [2, 8.2, 05. FIDE Competition Rules, FIDE Handbook]
3. Organizer reserves the right to retain up to the whole sum of team registration fee depending on when the cancellation is made.
4. Teams who pull-out / absent halfway from the tournament without valid reason shall be submitted to Ethics Committee for investigate.

