



MALDIVES CHESS ASSOCIATION

Sports Complex (Chess Arcade), Hulhumale', Maldives
Tel; (+960) 7310073, Email; maldiveschessassociation@gmail.com

National Junior Chess Championship 2026

An event organized by the Maldives Chess Association

Tournament Rules and Regulations

National Junior Chess Championship – 2026 organized by Maldives Chess Association is endorsed by the Ministry of Youth Empowerment, Sports and Fitness and the Commissioner of Sports.

1. PARTICIPATION

Participation is open to Maldivians only. The prescribed form(s) for application is attached herewith.

The age groups are as below:

UNDER 8, 10, 12, 14, 16, 18 and 20 (Open & Girls)

Eligibility: A player wishing to play in a given age group shall not have reached the upper bound of the age group before the 1st of January 2026. (The cutoff date for determining the age is 1st January 2026.) Each player can play in one single age category only.

Participation Fee: Each player is required to pay a non-refundable participation FEE of MVR500.00. Participation deadline is **2nd Oct 2026**

1.2 Late Registration is accepted until **5th Oct 2026** with a late fee of **MVR 500**.

2. TOURNAMENT FORMAT

The tournament will be a maximum of 9 (nine) rounds. The pairing will be done using either SWISS (if more than 10 participants) OR Round Robin (if the number of participants are 10 or below).

2.1 The Swiss Manager shall be used as the pairing program. No other pairing program shall be used.

2.2 The first-round pairing shall be done after the conclusion of the Technical Meeting.

2.3 Time Control: 90 minutes with 30 seconds increment from Move 1.

2.4 Scoring: match points (1 point for a win, 0.5 (½) point for a draw, 0 points for a loss. Ranking will be based on the Match Points scored by the player. In case of any tie in Match Points score, the following tie-breaks shall be applied: -

a) If pairing was done using Round Robin:

- Direct encounter
- The greater number of victories
- Sonneborn-Berger (the sum of the scores of the opponents a player has defeated and half the scores of the players with whom he / she has drawn).

- Koya System (the number of points achieved against all opponents who have achieved 50% or more)
- b) If pairing was done using SWISS
- Direct encounter
 - Buchholz Cut 1
 - Buchholz
 - Sonneborn-Berger (the sum of the scores of the opponents a player has defeated and half the scores of the players with whom he / she has drawn).
 - The greater number of victories
- c) If no definitive winner is selected from tie breaks, a rapid match will be held.
- Lots are drawn to decide the colors between players.
 - The player who wins the lots may choose the color.
 - Time Control: 15minutes 10 second increment

3. RULES

- 3.1 The tournament will be played according to the Rules of Play of FIDE.
- 3.2 Forfeit time is 30 minutes.
- 3.3 A player shall 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.
- 3.4 A player shall not discuss their game with anyone while the game is in progress.
- 3.5 A player shall not leave the playing venue while their game is in progress without the permission of the arbiter.
- 3.6 A player shall not bring an electronic device to the playing area while a round is in progress.
- 3.7 A player shall not be a source of noise in the playing area.
- 3.8 Behavior and language that disrupts the sports-conducive environment of the playing area shall not be tolerated.
- 3.9 A player whose game is finished is considered a spectator and shall leave the playing area as soon as possible.
- 3.10 A player shall not do anything that will bring the game of chess into disrepute.
- 3.11 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
- 3.12 Supplementary Rules and Regulations by the Organizer.
- 3.13 All participants should be smartly attired.

3.14 The decision of the Tournament Director and Chief Arbiter with regard to the running of the tournament is FINAL.

4. Medals and Awards

4.1 The top 3 participants in each age group will be awarded Certificates, Trophies, and Medals; Gold, Silver, and Bronze for First, Second, and Third places respectively.

5. Tournament Venue

5.1 The Playing Venue will be informed in advance.

6. Arbiters

6.1 Maldives Chess Association shall appoint an International Arbiter (IA) / FIDE Arbiter (FA) to become the Chief Arbiter of the tournament.

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

6.3 The Organizer is allowed to appoint any number of Assistant Arbiters to facilitate the running of the tournament.

7. Penalties

7.1 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 the following options:

- 7.1.1 Warning
- 7.1.2 Increase the remaining time of the opponent
- 7.1.3 Reducing the remaining time of the offender
- 7.1.4 Increasing the points scored in the game by the opponent to the maximum [1 point] for that game
- 7.1.5 Reducing the points scored in the game by the offender
- 7.1.6 Declaring the game to be lost for the offender. The arbiter shall also decide the opponent's score
- 7.1.7 A fine between MRF 500 and MRF 2000
- 7.1.8 Expulsion from the Tournament.
- 7.2 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.
- 7.3 A player may also incur penalties from the Association/Organizers themselves depending on the severity of an infringement. These include fines and bans from future tournaments, events and activities hosted by the Association/Organizers.

8. The Appeals Committee

- 8.1 The Appeals Committee comprises of five [5] members: Chief Arbiter, Chief Organizer and three members appointed by Maldives Chess Association. Members of the appeals committee shall be 21 years or above on or before the date of the 1st round of the tournament.
- 8.2 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.
- 8.3 The decisions of the Appeals Committee are final.

9. Forfeits / Withdrawals / Expulsions

- 9.1 If a participant fails to attend any round, they shall be expelled from the tournament.
- 9.2 If a participant 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 participant 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]
- 9.3 Participants who pull-out / absent halfway from the tournament without valid reason shall be submitted to Ethics Committee for investigation.

Tournament Organizer: Adam Zahir

Chief Arbiter: Mohamed Shamrooh