

FIDE CIRCUIT 2025 REGULATIONS

Approved by FIDE Council on 25/01/2024

1. Scope

- 1.1 The FIDE Circuit is the circuit of top tournaments around the world unified according to the criteria described below.
- 1.2 The body responsible for adopting and changing these Regulations is the FIDE Council.
- 1.3 At any time, any unforeseen circumstance or tournament format not covered in these Regulations shall be referred to the President for the final decision.

2. Format

- 2.1 Eligible tournaments are:
 - 2.1.1 FIDE-rated individual over-the-board standard-play tournaments (hereinafter referred to as "Standard tournaments")
 - 2.1.2 FIDE World Rapid and Blitz Championships 2025
 - 2.1.3 Continental over-the-board Rapid and Blitz Championships 2025
 - 2.1.4 Other over-the-board FIDE-rated Rapid & Blitz tournaments
- 2.2 The eligible tournaments must meet the following criteria:
 - 2.2.1 Finish between 16th December, 2024 and 15th December, 2025
 - 2.2.2 At least 8 players
 - 2.2.3 At least 7 rounds (at least 4 rounds for knockout events).
 - 2.2.4 The 8 highest-rated players have an average standard rating (TAR), as per the standard FIDE-rating list which is current on the day of the first round, of either
 - 1) 2550, for tournaments in categories 2.1.1 to 2.1.3
 - 2) 2700, for tournaments in category 2.1.4
 - 2.2.5 The Chief Arbiter is an International Arbiter
 - 2.2.6 Fair Play procedures recommended by FIDE FPL Commission are applied (see Annex 1)
 - 2.2.7 Players represent at least 3 different Member Federations or Affiliated Members
 - 2.2.8 Not more than 50% of either the 20 highest-rated players, or not more than 50% of all players if there are fewer than 20 players, shall represent one federation

- 2.3 The FIDE World Championship Match 2024 is also recognised as an eligible tournament as indicated in Article 3.5.
- 2.4 The tournaments in Articles 2.1.2 are expected to be held after the cutoff specified for Standard tournaments specified in Article 2.2.1.
- 2.5 The criteria in Articles 2.2.7 and 2.2.8 do not apply for National Championships.

3. Points System per Tournament

- 3.1 Basic Points are awarded to players in (or in a tie for) one of the first 8 places in a tournament, provided that the player is in (or in a tie for) the top half of the final tournament ranking (for round-robin tournaments - one of the top 3 places or in tie, for knockout tournaments - the player reaches at least the third round).
 - 1st place 11 points for an outright winner with no tie-break criteria applied
10 points otherwise
 - 2nd place 8 points
 - 3rd place 7 points
 - 4th place 6 points
 - 5th place 5 points
 - 6th place 4 points
 - 7th place 3 points
 - 8th place 2 points
- 3.2 A player will only count for any calculation in these rules if they played, or won by forfeit, in at least 50% of the total number of games in the tournament. If a player withdrew from a tournament without a valid reason, GSC may decide not to consider this tournament for this player.
- 3.3 The number of basic points that tied players score shall be calculated as 50% of basic points for their final ranking determined by the tournament's tie-break rules, plus 50% of the sum of basic points assigned for the tied places divided by the number of tied players. If no tie-break system is applied, the basic points shall be shared equally among all players in the tie.
- 3.4 The event score for each player is determined by the number of basic points (see Articles 3.1 and 3.3) multiplied by a tournament strength factor calculated as follows: $k=(TAR-2500)/100$
- 3.5 The following special cases apply:
 - 3.5.1 Losing Quarter Finalists in the FIDE World Cup 2025 shall be deemed to have finished in 5th place for the purpose of determining their basic points. World Cup event scores shall be calculated using the method described in Article 3.4 and the difference between the number of games won and lost (if positive, but not more than 2) added.

- 3.5.2 The loser of the FIDE World Championship Match 2024 scores the basic points for 2nd place in accordance with Article 3.1, multiplied by the event score in Article 3.4, multiplied by 2. For the calculation of the event score, the TAR will not be calculated in accordance with Article 2.2.4. The TAR will instead be the player's performance rating.
- 3.6 The event scores calculated using the method in Article 3.4 for the FIDE World Rapid and Blitz Championships are multiplied by 0.8 and 0.6 respectively for the purpose of the final score calculation.
- 3.7 The event scores calculated using the method in Article 3.4 for the Continental Rapid and Blitz Championships and other eligible rapid and blitz tournaments are multiplied by 0.6 and 0.4 respectively for the purpose of the final score calculation.
- 3.8 The event scores calculated using the method in Article 3.4 for other eligible rapid and blitz events, where the tournament is organised as a combination of rapid and blitz games (excluding their use as part of a playoff), are multiplied by 0.5 for the purpose of the final score calculation.

4. Ranking List

- 4.1 The final score of a player is calculated as the sum of the player's up to seven highest event scores.
 - 4.1.1 If a player's final score is a sum of six or seven best scores, it can contain no more than two rapid or blitz tournaments.
 - 4.1.2 If a player's final score is a sum of five or fewer scores, it can contain no more than one rapid or blitz tournament.
 - 4.1.3 If a player's final score is a sum of six or seven best scores, it can contain no more than four or five respectively standard tournaments with the participation of less than 50 players.
 - 4.1.4 If a player's final score is a sum of five or fewer scores, it can contain no more than four eligible standard tournaments with the participation of less than 50 players.
- 4.2 To be eligible for FIDE Candidates Tournament 2026 qualification, a player's final score shall consist of at least five tournaments (including at least four standard tournaments).

Among these tournaments there shall be:

 - 4.2.1 At least two standard tournaments with the participation of more than 50 players*, if his/her final score consists of six or seven tournaments.
 - 4.2.2 At least one standard tournament with the participation of more than 50 players*, if his/her final score consists of five tournaments.

*The player's event score in any of these tournaments can be 0 points
- 4.3 The final score calculation can include the following eligible tournaments:

- 4.3.1 Official eligible tournaments: National Championships and/or FIDE competitions organised under the aegis of EVE and GSC.
- 4.3.2 Other eligible tournaments: any number of tournaments per country, but no more two tournaments per country with TAR below 2650 (this limitation does not apply to the tournaments specified in Article 4.3.1.). A “country” for the purpose of this rule is defined as the territories represented by Member Federations and Affiliated Members.
- 4.4 In case of a tie in the final ranking of players, the tie will be broken by removing the lowest event score that was included in the player’s final score calculation. If this fails to resolve the tie, then this process shall be repeated until the tie is broken. If this fails to resolve the tie, there will be a drawing of lots.
- 4.5 FIDE shall update and publish the Ranking List at least on a weekly basis.
- 4.6 For the events taking place after 1st July, 2025, organisers shall notify GSC about the intention to hold a tournament at least 3 months in advance of its first round.

Annex 1

FIDE Anti-Cheating Regulations:

<https://handbook.fide.com/chapter/AntiCheatingRegulations>