

REGULATIONS FOR THE GLOBAL CHESS LEAGUE 2025

Approved by FIDE President on 09/10/2025

1. Scope

- 1.1 The Global Chess League 2025 (hereinafter referred to as GCL) is a joint venture by FIDE and Tech Mahindra.
- 1.2 GCL oversees preparing Regulations, communicating with the participants and the Organiser, and conducting inspections.
- 1.3 FIDE President, in consultation with GCL, is responsible for adopting and changing these Regulations.
- 1.4 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. Participants

- 2.1 Players are invited by GCL to participate in the competition. They are divided into the following categories:
 - 2.1.1 Players rated at least 2700 (for male players), 2400 (for female players) and 2600 (for U21 players (see Article 2.2.4)) in any of the FIDE rating lists from January to December 2025
 - 2.1.2 All exceptions will be approved by GCL Board.
- 2.2 Each team has one manager, whose responsibilities are identical to those of captains in FIDE regulations, and 6 players:
 - 2.2.1 1 Icon, who will play on board 1
 - 2.2.2 2 male players, who will play on board 2 and 3
 - 2.2.3 2 female players, who will play on board 4 and 5
 - 2.2.4 1 player born in 2003 or later, who will play on board 6
- 2.3 Teams will play in a fixed board order, which cannot be amended after the drawing of lots (see Article 2.2). The manager is responsible for selecting the board order.
- 2.4 In each match all players of one team will play with the same colour.
- 2.5 Not later than the end of the Opening Ceremony, there will be a drawing of lots to determine each team's pairing number in the schedule.

3. Registration

- 3.1 Each player and manager are required to sign a contract with GCL. The player's National Federation is not involved in this process.

- 3.2 Players are allocated to teams by a draft process organised by GCL. Players do not have the right to choose their own team.
- 3.3 GCL will establish a pool of reserve players (see Article 4.1).

4. Reserves Players and Force Majeure Policies

4.1.1 If Icon player drops out, team will have following recourse

- a. Pick a player from reserve to nominate as Icon
- b. Upgrade a player from Men category to icon and include one of the Men reserve player in men category in place of upgraded player.

4.1.2 If a male player drops out, team can choose between male reserve player option and onboard the player.

4.1.3 EXCEPTION Rule - If a Men's player drops out and both reserves are already deployed in other teams. Only in such case a team shall have followed recourse

- a. Shuffle a Under – 21 Player/Women Player to Men Category and pick a Under -21 player/ Women Player from reserve basis the selection made.

Example if a U21 player is picked to men category, the U-21 player will be replenished by reserve from U-21 Category.

4.1.4 If a female player drops out, team can choose between female reserve player option and onboard the player.

4.1.5 If a U21 player drops out, team can choose between U21 reserve player option and onboard the player.

4.1.6 If a U21 player drops out and both U21 reserves are already deployed in other teams. Only in such case, a team shall have following recourse

- b. EXCEPTION RULE - Select from Female reserves option.
 - i. Only in case that all female reserves have been consumed, team can pick a MEN reserve player to play in U21 as long as he is under the age of 21 on 2nd October 2025.

4.1.7 League will attempt to replenish reserve player and onboard new players in appropriate category during the league. In such a case where all reserves in appropriate category are consumed and EXCEPTION RULE is an option available, please note the following.

- a. EXCEPTION Rule will be suspended if new reserve player is able to join the team at least 4 hours before the start of the game.
- b. If EXCEPTION Rule has been enforced for lack of reserve player, that rule will then be continued till end of League

4.1.8 In case of circumstances arising out of exceptional situations outside of the above scenarios, a committee of Chief Arbiter, Deputy Arbiter, Chief Fair Play Officer, League CEO and, Tournament Director will frame rules for that situation basis equity and fairness and implement them. The rules shall be final and binding.

5. Tournament System

5.1 Tournament Stages

- 5.1.1 The preliminary tournament will be a Double Round Robin. The two teams with the most MP (see Article 5.3.2) will qualify to the Final, while the team's finishing 3rd and 4th will compete in a playoff for 3rd place. The tie-breaks are:

GP, calculated in accordance with the procedure in Article 5.3.1 (Sum of the individual points that each player of the team scores.)

Direct Encounter: The team with the higher number of GP aggregate over both black and white in the head-to-head matches between the tied teams (In case of tie-on match points, the Game Points on the head-to-head matches between the tied team will be used. Whoever having higher game points will be placed higher in standing)

Extended Sonneborn-Berger (EMMSB) {Total Match Point opponent × Match Point scored}

Extended Sonneborn-Berger (EGGSB), with GP calculated in accordance with the procedure in Article 5.3.1 {Total Game Point opponent × Game Point scored}

Drawing of lots (In case all the above tiebreaks not resolve the tie, then draw of lots will be used to break the tie)

Please refer :

<https://handbook.fide.com/chapter/TieBreakRegulations042024>

- 5.1.2 The time control will be 20 minutes for each player with increment of 2 seconds from move number 41.
- 5.1.3 Instead of commencing all six boards simultaneously, the games will be started in staggered manner with two games starting initially and other two games after an interval of 2 minutes and last two games will start after another interval of 2 minutes. League reserves the right to alter the interval upon giving 24 hour notice.
- 5.1.4 At the start time, the Arbiter will start the clock irrespective of player present or not. The default time will be when the absent player's time expires. However, if a player being late of less than the default time is sanctioned by a financial penalty of €200 for each violation. (Explanation : The player receive a fine of €200 if he late for the start of the game even for one second.)

- 5.1.5 In case of a force majeure situation, Chief Arbiter will have the authority to delay the start of game/match.
- 5.1.6 The Final is played over the best-of-2 matches. There will be a drawing of lots to determine which team is white in match 1. This team will then be black in match 2. The team who wins more matches will be Champion. In the event of a tie:
- a) There will be a playoff blitz fixture, which will be the best-of-2 matches. The team that was white in match 1 and black in match 2 will play white in match 3 and black in match 4. The time limit for each game will be all moves in 3 minutes plus 2 seconds. The team who wins the most matches in the fixture will be Champion.
 - b) If the teams remain tied, there shall be a drawing of lots to determine a board from 1 to 6. The player from each team on this board will then participate in a sudden death blitz game. The time limit for this game will be 3 minutes plus 2 seconds per move. The player from the team who was white in matches 1 and 3, will play white in this game.
 - c) If the sudden death blitz game is drawn, then the procedure in Article 5.1.6 is repeated, except that the colour of the player from each team alternates from the colour the team had in the preceding sudden death blitz game.
 - d) If the tie remains unbroken, the procedure in Article 5.1.6(c) is repeated until a sudden death blitz game has a winner.

5.2 Technical Details

- 5.2.1 The tournament will be played in accordance with Appendices A2 and A4 of the FIDE Laws of Chess.
- 5.2.2 The draw of lots to decide the team starting number will be held on 2025.
- 5.2.3 The Manager need to submit the fixed boarder at 17:00 on 2025 during Technical Meeting at London.
- 5.2.4 The games are played using the electronic clocks and boards approved by FIDE.
- 5.2.5 The players cannot draw a game by agreement before black's 30th move. A claim for a draw before black's 30th move is permitted only in cases of a draw by threefold repetition or a stalemate.
- 5.2.6 All players from the same team in a match will play with the same colour. In the first match between the teams, this shall be determined by a drawing of lots or similar method of chance held 30 minutes prior to the scheduled start time. In the second match between the teams, the teams shall play with the other colour.

- 5.2.7 Team managers are required to sign the match protocol confirming the result at the conclusion of the match.
- 5.2.8 The manager can't advise or help their players to offer a draw or accept a draw.

5.3 Points System

- 5.3.1 Game points (GP) are awarded in the following way:
 - 4 GP for a game won with black (including forfeit wins)
 - 3 GP for a game won with white (including forfeit wins)
 - 1 GP for drawn game
 - 0 GP for a lost game
- 5.3.2 Match points (MP) are awarded in the following way:
 - 3 MP for the team that scores more GP than their opposing team
 - 1 MP for a team that scores the same GP as their opposing team
 - 0 MP for the team that scores fewer GP than their opposing team
- 5.3.3 Notwithstanding the scoring system in Article 5.3.1, games will be FIDE Rapid Rated using the normal scoring system (1, $\frac{1}{2}$, 0).

5.4 Prizes

- 5.4.1 The prize distribution is as follows:
 - USD 7,500 to each player in the winning team
 - USD 5,000 to the manager of the winning team

5.6 Playing Conditions

- 5.6.1 The Anti-Cheating Protection Measures for Level 1 events shall be applied (see Annex 1).
- 5.6.2 Except with the permission of the Chief Arbiter, only the players, the principals and stewards shall be allowed in the playing area. During a game a player may communicate with an arbiter or a steward.
- 5.6.3 The players are not permitted to bring in the playing area a telephone, technical and other equipment extraneous to play, which may in any way disturb or upset their opponents. The Chief Arbiter decides what constitutes extraneous equipment disturbing the opponent.
- 5.6.4 While his/her game is in progress, a player may leave the playing venue only with the permission of the Chief Arbiter and only if he/she is accompanied by one of the arbiters or fair play officer. In case of this rule violation, the current game shall be declared lost by the player.
- 5.6.5 The anti-doping test procedure shall be regulated by the FIDE Medical Commission according to WADA requirements.
- 5.6.6 The Organiser must fulfil the requirements of the medical protocol, including anti-Covid measures, as per standards of the FIDE Medical commission and host country requirements.

- 5.6.7 Tournament physicians shall be available for the participants for the duration of the tournament.
- 5.6.8 The following FIDE regulations apply in full (see Annex 1):
Captains and Heads of Delegation
Appeals Committee Procedural Rules; the appeal fee will be 300 Euros.

5.7 Player's Conduct

- 5.7.1 The dress code is strictly observed for the tournament and all the official events and press-conferences. Players and managers must wear team jersey and trousers must be worn. Players and managers must wear shoes or boots, players to wear team kits / clothing not limited to jerseys and not wear slippers. The Chief Arbiter will be responsible for ensuring participants comply with the dress code prior to the start of their matches.
- The teams are required to follow the GCL Governing Body decided dress code. If any particular team want to decide their own dress, prior approval from governing body must be taken.
- 5.7.2 Managers are expected all Technical Meetings called by the Chief Arbiter.
- 5.7.3 All players are expected to be present at all official receptions including the Opening and Closing Ceremonies.
- 5.7.4 Players are expected to co-operate with the media. Players are expected be available to speak to the media for 20 minutes after the conclusion of their team's match.
- 5.7.5 The winning team players are required to attend the final press conference after the event has ended and to provide an exclusive interview for the tournament and GCL website, if requested by the GCL Press Release Team.
- 5.7.6 The top two teams are required to attend the Closing Ceremony.
- 5.7.7 The players shall strictly abide by all medical regulations approved by FIDE. The players shall be aware that the regulations are subject to change and at short notice. FIDE shall inform players about any changes as quickly as possible.
- 5.7.8 If a player fails to fulfil his/her duties listed in Articles 5.7.1 – 5.7.7, he/she can be penalised for each breach as follows:
5% of his/her prize money shall be forfeited to GCL
5% of his/her manager's prize money shall be forfeited to GCL
5% to FIDE for each breach.
In cases of serious misconduct, the player may be disqualified from the event.
- 5.7.9 If a player undermines the reputation of FIDE, GCL and sponsors, other players, hosting country or city or conducts him/herself in a manner

contrary to the spirit of sportsmanship, he/she shall be penalised in accordance with the FIDE Ethics & Disciplinary Code.

5.7.10 There will be confessional box feature where a player from both teams will be invited to the confessional box to spend 1 minute after their 15th move and before their 25th move to share insights or strategies with fans. The invitation shall not disturb the player's reflexion. Only the clock of those players will be paused during this confession event.

5.8 Detailed Tournament schedules will be given within five days following the draw, which is planned for , 2025.

6. Principals

6.1 The principals are:

- 6.1.1 FIDE President
- 6.1.2 FIDE MED commission representative
- 6.1.3 Chief Arbiter
- 6.1.4 Deputy Chief Arbiter
- 6.1.5 Deputy Chief Arbiter
- 6.1.6 Fair Play Officer
- 6.1.7 FIDE Supervisor (Technical Delegate) - Chairman of the Appeals Committee
- 6.1.8 Two Appeals Committee Members
- 6.1.9 GCL representative

6.2 Arbiters

- 6.2.1 The Chief Arbiter, Deputy Chief Arbiters, and the Fair Play Officer shall be nominated by FIDE in accordance with the Regulations for the appointments of Arbiters in World Events.
- 6.2.2 During play either the Chief Arbiter or his/her Deputy shall be present in the playing area.
- 6.2.3 Within one week after the end of the event the Chief Arbiter shall submit a report in English to FIDE and GCL. The report contains the result of each game as well as the final standings and also a general description of the course of the event. If there were any difficulties, conflicts or incidents, they shall be described together with the measures taken to deal with them.

6.3 Appeals Committee

- 6.3.1 FIDE President shall appoint the FIDE Supervisor (Technical Delegate) - Chairman and the two other members of the Appeals Committee, all

from different Federations and two reserve members who shall work remotely.

6.4 Ceremonies

- 6.4.1 The Opening Ceremony or act shall take place the day prior or same day to the first round of the GCL.
- 6.4.2 The program of the Opening Ceremony shall be approved by FIDE Supervisor; such approval shall not be unreasonably withheld. The FIDE Anthem and the Anthem of the hosting nation shall be played.
- 6.4.3 The Closing Ceremony shall take place on the day of the last round of the GCL. GCL trophies for the winning team will be provided. The FIDE Anthem and the Anthem of the hosting nation shall be played.

7. Media

7.1 Website

- 7.1.1 The Organiser is responsible for managing, updating and reviewing the official web domain which is used for the event: www.globalchessleague.com. The Organiser shall ensure that globalchessleague.com is managed in a professional way and furthermore that it can handle the traffic and publicity that is required for such events.

7.2 Communications

- 7.2.1 All official written communications, in print or online form, as well as activities shall identify GCL as the governing body.
- 7.2.2 All official communications shall use the official name for the event, in full: Global Chess League 2025.
- 7.2.3 All pre-tournament public communications regarding GCL (e.g., joint press releases from FIDE and GCL) shall be co-written and scheduled in coordination between GCL's Corporate communications team and FIDE Head of PR.

7.3 Press Releases

- 7.3.1 GCL's corporate communications team shall create and disseminate press releases pertaining to GCL 2025 in coordination with FIDE's designated press officer.
- 7.3.2 GCL shall coordinate to ensure accreditation and hospitality for journalists and media at the facilities available at the designated Press Centre.
- 7.3.3 All content shown at globalchessleague.com shall be reviewed and approved by GCL. All live images, live broadcasting (Internet TV) pictures and all the other content (except the pgn files of the games) for the full event are carried on official domains, plus any other web domain as

decided by GCL prior to the tournament. In cases of conflicting information and press statements, the views expressed by GCL shall be the authentic version.

- 7.3.4 For any press conferences organized by GCL during the tournament, a designated FIDE representative may be a member of the panel.

7.4 Photography and Video

- 7.4.1 Only photographers and camera crew expressly authorised by the GCL may work in the playing venue, according to the protocol approved by the CA and FP officer.
- 7.4.2 Television cameras shall try to minimize any inconvenience for the players and may only be allowed if the Chief Arbiter deems their use to be unobtrusive.
- 7.4.3 The use of flash photography shall not be allowed. An exception could be made only if the particularities of the venue force the photographers to stay more than 6 meters away from the players. Even in those exceptional circumstances, it is restricted to the first 3 minutes of the games.
- 7.4.4 All broadcasters/production houses/content creators shall provide GCL with a copy of all the video footage filmed during the event. This includes a recording of the broadcast, interviews, press conferences, and Opening and Closing Ceremonies. This footage shall be provided in a physical support: DVD, flash drive, hard drive, etc. GCL can make use of these materials as specified in Article 8.

Deployment of VAR, if decided by the Tournament Director, will be added to Rules and regulations going forward.

8. Financial Issues

- 8.1 The stipends should be paid by FIDE to the principals within one week after the end of the tournament. The stipends paid to the Principals (USD) are:

Principal	Stipend	No.	Total
Chief Arbiter	\$3,500	1	\$3,500
Deputy Chief Arbiter	\$2,700	2	\$5,400
Fair Play Officer	\$2,700	1	\$2,700
Technical Delegate - Chairman of the Appeals Committee	\$2,700	1	\$2,700
Member of the Appeals Committee	\$2,200	2	\$4,400
FIDE MED commission representative	\$1,500	1	\$1,500
Total			\$20,200

8. 2. Travel Expenses of the FIDE Principals:

8.2.1 The FIDE President has the right to business class travel by air, sea or rail, at the Organiser's expense. If other travel conditions are not specified in the contract signed by the Organiser and FIDE,

8.2.2. All other Principals shall be compensated by the Organiser for their travel expenses up to a maximum of one thousand (1,000) USD if travelling from/to the same continent, up to one thousand three hundred (1,300) USD if travelling from/to another continent.

8.3 Local arbiters will have their full travel expenses covered by the Organiser, on the basis of the cost of the journeys being made on public transport using standard fare tickets

Taxi expenses not exceeding 40 usd will be reimbursed upon submission of receipt

8.4 Transfers to and from the airport shall be provided by the Organiser, if necessary. A sufficient number of cars shall be made available for 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 decided by GCL. Local transport shall also be provided for the players to official functions, if necessary.

8.5 From their arrival to their departure the Principals (apart from local arbiters) will be given by the Organiser a single room, in a hotel that is a minimum of 4*.

8.6 Provision for food and drinks shall be provided for all the Principals by the Organiser. This shall be provided by the provision of meals in the restaurant of the hotel, or by a specified allowance in local currency per day (80 usd).

8.7 GCL will provide sufficient personnel to assist in the playing venue, press room, VIP room, and at Ceremonies, this includes volunteers who can assist the CA or the FP.

8.8 The broadcaster shall produce a high-quality live video and games broadcast of GCL with commentaries in English and Hindi by at least two commentators. All expenses related to the broadcast shall be covered by the GCL. The distributing partner will deliver broadcast feed(s) to GCL and its broadcasting partner as per GCL's obligations with GCL's broadcasting partner.

8.9 GCL shall cover the costs of treating acute illnesses including the cost of medicines, but not chronic ailments of the players and FIDE principals. GCL shall cover the costs related to the medical protocol (see Article 5.6.5).

8.10 GCL shall cover the costs related to Anti-Doping testing (see Article 5.6.6) in accordance with the requirements of the anti-doping protocol.

9. Commercial Issues

- 9.1 GCL retains all commercial and media rights, including internet rights.
- 9.2 The radio and television rights, including photo, video and film rights, belong to GCL.
- 9.3 The players, principals and arbiters as well as any technical staff admitted to the venue understand that they may be captured either by recorded or broadcasted video, or by their images, including photographs, video frames or works of art (hereinafter referred to as Images) at the venue of the event as well as at the site around it, and provide their irrevocable consent for such capture, record and broadcast. GCL may use all acquired images for commercial, marketing, organizational and other purposes free of charge. Any image may be used in printed, electronic or any other media, including the internet, and GCL has the sub-licensable and worldwide right to use images as set forth above in any manner whatsoever (including any commercial purpose) free of charge.
- 9.4 GCL has the exclusive rights for live games transmission on Internet. GCL will provide the signal for online game display in the different function rooms.
- 9.5 GCL has the right to enter into advertisement agreements with the Organizer or Sponsors of the event requiring players to wear attire with the branding of sponsors.
- 9.6 Players 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 GCL.
- 9.7 Players should follow all conditions and regulations specified in contracts, signed between players and GCL.
- 9.8 The GCL logo is displayed below:



- 9.9 The FIDE logo shall be displayed in a black color on a white background. The text describing any event shall not be larger than twice the size of the word FIDE reproduced in the logo.



9.10 The present Regulations are governed and interpreted in accordance with the laws of Switzerland. All disputes arising from or in relation to with the Regulations shall be submitted to GCL.

10. GCL Season 3

8.11 Dates - 13th - 24th Dec, 2025.

- 10.1 Venue - Royal Opera House, Mumbai, India.
- 10.2 Format - Rapid (20 Minutes with 2 second increment from move 41)
- 10.3 Number of Teams – 6
- 10.4 Defending Champions - Triveni Continental Kings.
- 10.5 Key Players - Fabiano Caruana, Hikaru Nakamura, Gukesh D, Viswanathan Anand, Alireza Firouzja, Maxime - Vachier-Lagrave.

Annex 1 – Relevant FIDE Regulations

Relevant FIDE Regulations can be found here:

FIDE Laws of Chess: <https://handbook.fide.com/chapter/E012023>

Captains and Heads of Delegation:

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

Appeals Committee Procedural Rules:

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

Anti-Cheating Protection Measures:

<https://handbook.fide.com/files/handbook/ACCProtectionMeasures.pdf>