

2025 Grand Chess Tour Event Regulations

1. Preamble

The following Event Regulations shall apply to the 2025 Grand Chess Tour (GCT) events.

2. Laws of Chess

Unless otherwise specified below, all GCT events shall be governed by the FIDE Laws of Chess. For Rapid & Blitz events, Articles A.5 and B.3 of the FIDE Laws of Chess will apply respectively.

2.1. Default Times

If a player is more than ten (10) minutes late for a Classical round, the player shall forfeit such round. If a player is more than three (3) minutes late for a Rapid or Blitz round, the player shall forfeit such round.

2.2. Competitive Play

To promote competitive play during all GCT events, it will not be permitted for players to offer or agree to a draw in any game, including playoff games. In the event of a claim for a draw under Article 9.2 of the Laws (three-fold repetition) or under Article 9.3 of the Laws (50 move rule), one of the Event Arbiters must be asked by the players to verify the claim.

2.3. Displaced Pieces

Where a player accidentally displaces one or more pieces on the chessboard during a game and does not replace them in their own time, the other player may stop the clock and call for an arbiter (who shall stop the clock if this has not been done).

Where arbiter intervention is necessary, the following penalties shall apply. The same penalties shall apply in subsequent rounds.

- First occurrence: The arbiter shall warn the offending player that on the next occurrence it will be treated as an illegal move.
- Second occurrence: This is now treated as an illegal move and action shall be taken by the arbiter according to the number of illegal moves already done by the offending player in the same game.
- Third occurrence: This is treated as a second illegal move, so the penalty will be a loss of the game for the offending player.

3. Pairings

A drawing of lots will be held prior to the first Classical event, and separately for both the Rapid & Blitz portions prior to each Rapid & Blitz event.

For the first Classical event, if there are three or more full Tour players from the same federation, the drawing of lots shall be "restricted" using the FIDE Varma Table. The pairings for the second Classical event shall be the same as for the first Classical event, but with colours reversed.

4. Rapid & Blitz Event Regulations

3.1. Prize Fund

The total prize fund for each Rapid & Blitz event shall be One Hundred and Seventy-Five Thousand Dollars (\$175,000) which shall be distributed as follows:

2025 Grand Chess Tour - Rapid & Blitz Events Prize Fund Distribution			
Place	Prize	Place	Prize
1 st	\$40,000	6 th	\$11,000
2 nd	\$30,000	7 th	\$10,000
3 rd	\$25,000	8 th	\$9,000
4 th	\$20,000	9 th	\$8,000
5 th	\$15,000	10 th	\$7,000
Total Prize Fund: \$175,000			

3.2. Rapid Chess Format and Time Limit

- **Format:** 10-player Round Robin
- **Time Limit:** Game in 25 minutes, with a 10 second increment from move 1.

3.3. Blitz Chess Format and Time Limit

- **Format:** 10-player Double Round Robin
- **Time Limit:** Game in 5 minutes, with a 2 second increment from move 1.

3.4. Scoring

In the Rapid & Blitz events the standings shall be determined by the allocation of:

- 2 points for a win, 1 point for a draw and 0 points for a loss in a Rapid game; and
- 1 point for a win, ½ point for a draw and 0 points for a loss in a Blitz game.

3.5. Event Schedules

The schedules for the three Rapid & Blitz events are as follows:

2025 Superbet Poland Rapid & Blitz			
Date	Event	Date	Event
April 24	Player Arrival	April 28	Rapid Day 3
April 25	Player Photos, Technical Meeting & Opening Ceremony	April 29	Blitz Day 1
April 26	Rapid Day 1	April 30	Blitz Day 2, Playoffs & Closing Ceremony
April 27	Rapid Day 2	May 1	Player Departure

2025 SuperUnited Croatia Rapid & Blitz			
Date	Event	Date	Event
June 30	Player Arrival	July 4	Rapid Day 3
July 1	Player Photos, Technical Meeting & Opening Ceremony	July 5	Blitz Day 1
July 2	Rapid Day 1	July 6	Blitz Day 2, Playoffs & Closing Ceremony
July 3	Rapid Day 2	July 7	Player Departure

2025 Saint Louis Rapid & Blitz			
Date	Event	Date	Event
August 9	Player Arrival	August 13	Rapid Day 3
August 10	Player Photos, Technical Meeting & Opening Ceremony	August 14	Blitz Day 1
August 11	Rapid Day 1	August 15	Blitz Day 2, Playoffs & Closing Ceremony
August 12	Rapid Day 2	August 16	Player Departure

5. Classical Event Regulations

5.1. Prize Fund

The total prize fund for each of the Classical Events shall be Three Hundred and Fifty Thousand Dollars (\$350,000) which shall be distributed as follows:

2025 Grand Chess Tour – Classical Events Prize Fund Distribution			
Place	Prize	Place	Prize
1 st	\$100,000	6 th	\$21,000
2 nd	\$65,000	7 th	\$18,500
3 rd	\$48,000	8 th	\$16,000
4 th	\$32,000	9 th	\$13,000
5 th	\$26,000	10 th	\$10,500
Total Prize Fund: \$350,000			

5.2. Format and Time Limit

- **Format:** 10-player Round Robin
- **Time Limit:** 90 minutes for 40 moves and 30 minutes for the rest of the game with a 30 second increment from move 1.

5.3. Scoring

In the Classical events, the standings shall be determined by the allocation of:

- 1 point for a win, ½ point for a draw and 0 points for a loss in all games.

5.4. Event Schedules

The schedules for the two Classical events are as follows:

2025 Superbet Romania Chess Classic			
Date	Event	Date	Event
May 5	Player Arrival	May 12	Rest Day
May 6	Player Photos, Technical Meeting & Opening Ceremony	May 13	Round 6
May 7	Round 1	May 14	Round 7
May 8	Round 2	May 15	Round 8
May 9	Round 3	May 16	Round 9, Playoffs & Closing Ceremony
May 10	Round 4	May 17	Player Departure
May 11	Round 5		

2025 Sinquefield Cup			
Date	Event	Date	Event
August 16	Player Arrival	August 23	Rest Day
August 17	Player Photos, Technical Meeting & Opening Ceremony	August 24	Round 6
August 18	Round 1	August 25	Round 7
August 19	Round 2	August 26	Round 8
August 20	Round 3	August 27	Round 9 & Sinquefield Cup Playoffs
August 21	Round 4	August 28	GCT Playoffs, Sinquefield Cup & GCT Closing Ceremonies
August 22	Round 5	August 29	Player Departure

6. Grand Finals Regulations

6.1. Prize Fund

The total prize fund for the Grand Finals shall be Three Hundred and Fifty Thousand Dollars (\$350,000) which shall be distributed as follows:

2025 Grand Chess Tour – Grand Finals Prize Fund Distribution	
Place	Prize
1 st	\$150,000
2 nd	\$100,000
3 rd	\$60,000
4 th	\$40,000
Total Prize Fund: \$350,000	

6.2. Format and Time Limits

- **Format:** 2-player matches consisting of two Classical games, two Rapid games and four Blitz games. All games in each match must be completed, even when a match is already decided.
- **Time Limits:** The following time controls will be used for all matches:
 - Classical games: 90 minutes for 40 moves and 30 minutes for the rest of the game with a 30 second increment from move 1.
 - Rapid games: Game in 25 minutes, with a 10 second increment from move 1.
 - Blitz games: Game in 5 minutes, with a 2 second increment from move 1.

6.3. Seedings and Pairings

Players will be seeded one through four according to the following order:

- Total Tour Points
- Total Tour Points obtained in the two Classical events
- Total prize money won in the GCT regular season
- Total prize money won in the two Classical events

The pairings for the semi-finals will be as follows:

- Semi-Final Match 1: Seed #1 vs Seed #4
- Semi-Final Match 2: Seed #2 vs Seed #3

The winners of each Semi-Final match shall then contest a Final Match, and the losers shall then contest a 3rd and 4th place Playoff Match.

6.4. Colours

Colours for the Classical games shall be decided by the drawing of lots. The player who has White in Classical game 1 shall have Black in Rapid game 1 and in Blitz games 1 and 3.

6.5. Scoring

Points will be allocated to each game within the respective matches as follows:

- Classical Games: 6 points for a win, 3 points for a draw and 0 points for a loss
- Rapid Games: 4 points for a win, 2 points for a draw and 0 points for a loss
- Blitz Games: 2 points for a win, 1 point for a draw and 0 points for a loss

Each match will therefore be scored out of a total of 28 possible points, with a total of at least 15 points being required to win each match.

6.6. Event Schedule

The schedule for the GCT Grand Finals is as follows:

2025 Grand Chess Tour Grand Finals			
Date	Event	Date	Event
	Player Arrival		Finals Classical Game 1
	Technical Meeting & Opening Ceremony		Finals Classical Game 2
	Semi-Finals Classical Game 1		Finals Rapid, Blitz, Playoffs & Closing Ceremony
	Semi-Finals Classical Game 2		Player Departure
	Semi-Finals Rapid, Blitz & Playoffs		

7. Full Tour Player Unable to Participate in Event

The player will be allowed to play in the remaining events in which they are scheduled to take part, and to earn prize money and Tour Points accordingly. If an alternate is available, they will replace the absent player. Otherwise, the event will proceed with 9 players and the prize money and the Tour Points for the first 9 places will be earned.

8. Player Arrives Late for Event

Players are asked to allow for the likelihood of travel problems and make their arrangements accordingly. If a player has a legitimate reason for arriving late, the following regulations will apply.

In a Classical event:

- A player who misses Round 1 will be allowed to play their Round 1 game on the rest day.
- A player who misses Round 1 and misses Round 2, or declares their intention to miss Round 2, will be excluded and may be replaced by a substitute player if one is available. The substitute will play their Round 2 game as soon as possible on the day of Round 2 and play their Round 1 game on the rest day.

In a Rapid & Blitz event:

- A player who does not arrive in time to play will not be permitted to play in the Rapid portion and may be replaced by a substitute if one is available. The original player may play in the Blitz portion if they arrive in time to do so.
- The prize money will be split equally between the two players and the Tour player will be awarded half of the Tour points for the combined score.

9. Player Taken Ill During Event

If a player is taken ill during an event and cannot complete it, their results will stand if they have completed half the games, but shall otherwise be annulled. For this purpose, the Rapid & Blitz portions of a Rapid & Blitz event will be treated separately, and the Player's Blitz results will only stand if they have completed the first cycle of that event.

If a player is taken ill during the Rapid portion of an event, a substitute may be introduced for the Blitz portion. In that situation the prize money will be split equally between the two players and the Tour player will be awarded half of the Tour points for the combined score.