



Regulations for the FIDE Women's Candidates Tournament 2022-23

1. Scope

1. 1. The FIDE Women's Candidates Tournament (hereinafter referred to as WCT) shall be organised in the fourth quarter 2022 – first quarter 2023.
1. 2. The governing Body is the International Chess Federation (FIDE).
1. 3. FIDE Global Strategy Commission (hereinafter referred to as GSC) is in charge of preparing Regulations, communicating with the participants and the Organiser, conducting inspections.
1. 4. The body responsible for any changes to these Regulations is the FIDE Council (upon GSC's recommendation).
1. 5. 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. Qualification

2. 1. Eight players shall qualify for the Women's Candidates Tournament 2022 by the following criteria:

A. 1 spot – FIDE World Championship Match 2020, Runner-up

GM Aleksandra Goryachkina.

B. 2 spots – FIDE Grand Prix Series 2019-20

GM Humpy Koneru and GM Kateryna Lagno.

C. 3 spots – FIDE World Cup 2021

GM Alexandra Kosteniuk, GM Tan Zhongyi, GM Anna Muzychuk.

D. 1 spot – FIDE Women's Grand Swiss Tournament 2021

GM Lei Tingjie.

E. 1 spot – by Rating

The player having the highest standard rating in the FIDE January 2022 rating list, provided she has at least 15 standard games rated in FIDE standard rating lists from February 2021 to January 2022 or participated in events C or D.

In case of equal ratings, the following criteria, in order of priority, shall decide:

- number of rated games in the FIDE standard rating lists from February 2021 to January 2022: the player who has played more games qualifies.
- drawing of lots.

GM Mariya Muzychuk.

2. 2. In the event of a player withdrawing or declining to participate, a replacement player shall be invited using the procedure set out in [Article 2.1.E](#).

3. Confirmation of Participation

3. 1. The list of qualified players and a standard player's contract shall be published on the FIDE website same time.
3. 2. Each player shall receive her contract by email. She may also download her contract from the FIDE website. Each player shall sign and send her contract to the FIDE Secretariat by the registered email by the deadline. Additional contracts between the Organiser and the players may be signed if needed.
3. 3. A player who does not submit her contract within the deadline shall be replaced according to the procedure described in [Article 2.2](#). FIDE may accept late contracts received after the deadline only for reasons FIDE President considers to be admissible. Players qualified as replacements shall have one week from the date their invitation was sent to return their signed contracts.

3. 4. A player who signs his/her contract announced his/her withdrawal afterwards shall be replaced as described in [Article 2.2](#).

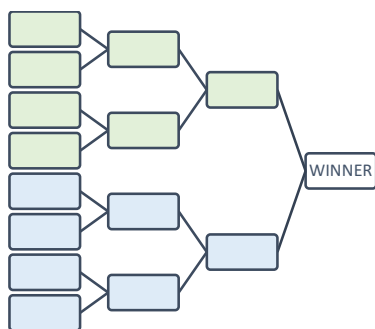
3. 5. Players who fail to provide a satisfactory reason for withdrawal, after they have signed the player's contract, may be imposed a fine up to ten thousand (10,000) euros. Such decision can only be taken by the FIDE Council.

4. Tournament Regulations

4. 1. Format & System

4. 1. 1. The 8 players shall play a knock-out tournament, 3 rounds. First two rounds (Stage I) shall be played with 4-game matches. The final round (Stage II) shall be played with a 6-game match.

4. 1. 2. There shall be two pools: green and blue.



Matches of the two pools shall not necessarily be played in the same city and on the same dates.

4. 2. Pools composition and pairings

4. 2. 1. Pools composition (see [Article 4.1.2](#)) shall be made in accordance with the two basic principles:

- Two best players by rating* shall be placed (“seeded”) in different pools. If two or more players have equal ratings, the player with the bigger number of games played during the period covered by the list shall be “seeded”. If the number of games is equal, drawing of lots shall decide.
- Average rating* of the pools shall be approximately equal.

*Ratings (including inactive) of the FIDE Standard June 2022 rating list shall be used.

4. 2. 2. In each pool, the pairings shall be made in order of priority:

- a) If possible, avoiding a clash of two players representing the same federation;
- b) Highest rated player* vs lowest rated player*
Player 2 vs Player 3.

*Ratings (including inactive) of the FIDE Standard June 2022 rating list shall be used. If two or more players have equal ratings, the player with the bigger number of games played during the period covered by the list shall take a higher position. If the number of games is equal, drawing of lots shall decide.

4. 2. 3. In case of any replacement player as a result of the provisions of [Article 2.2](#) being applied, the pairings shall remain the same except that the replacement player shall take the place of the withdrawn player.

4. 3. Drawing of colours

4. 3. 1. The draw of colours for each match of Round 1 and Round 3 shall be made during the respective Opening Ceremonies.

4. 3. 2. The draw of colours for each match of Round 2 shall be made immediately after the last game (standard or tie-break) of the Round 1.

4. 4. Time control and default time

4. 4. 1. The games are played using the electronic clocks and boards approved by FIDE.

4. 4. 2. The time control shall be 90 minutes for the first 40 moves, followed by 30 minutes for the rest of the game with an increment of 30 seconds per move starting from move 1.

4. 4. 3. A player who arrives in the playing area after the actual start time of her game shall have five hundred (500) euros deducted from her prize money. A player who arrives in the playing area more than 15 minutes after the actual start time of her game shall lose her game by default, but without financial penalty.

4. 5. Draw by mutual agreement

The players cannot draw any game by mutual agreement before black's 40th move. A claim for a draw before black's 40th move is permitted only in the case of a draw by repetition or a stalemate.

4. 6. Conditions of victory

4. 6. 1. In any match, the first player to reach 2,5 points (3,5 in the final match) in the standard games shall be the winner of the match. If the scores are level a tie shall be broken according to [Article 4.7](#).

4. 6. 2. The player who wins the final match shall be declared the winner of WCT and qualify for the Women's World Chess Championship Match 2023.

4. 7. Tie-breaks

4. 7. 1. In each match, if the score is level after the standard games, after a new drawing of colours done immediately after the last standard game, four tie-break games shall be played with time control of 15 minutes for each player + 10 seconds increment per move, starting from move 1.

4. 7. 2. If the scores are level after the games in [Article 4.7.1](#), then after a new drawing of colours, 2 games shall be played with time control of 5 minutes for each player + 3 seconds increment per move, starting from move 1.

4. 7. 3. If the score is still level after the games in [Article 4.7.2](#), then after a new drawing of colours, one game with a time control of 3 minutes + 2 seconds increment per move, starting from move 1 shall be played to determine the winner.

4. 7. 4. If the game described in [Article 4.7.3](#) is drawn, another game shall be played with a time control of 3 minutes + 2 seconds increment per move, starting from move 1 with the colours reversed from the previous game.

4. 7. 5. If the game described in [Article 4.7.4](#) is drawn, the procedure described in [Article 4.7.4](#) shall be repeated until the first game won by one of the players.

4. 8. Prizes

4. 8. 1. The total prize fund of WCT amounts to two hundred fifty thousand (250,000) euros. The money prizes shall be net and cleared of any local taxes. The prizes shall be allocated as follows:

Place	Prize, euros	Sum of prizes, euros
1	60,000	60,000
2	50,000	50,000
3-4	30,000	60,000
5-8	20,000	80,000
TOTAL		250,000

4. 8. 2. The prize money shall be paid by direct banker's order drawn in euros. Within fourteen working days after completion of the event and reception of player's bank details, FIDE shall transfer players' prize money to her bank account.

4. 8. 3. If a player withdraws after the start of the tournament, FIDE Council shall decide whether or not to pay out her prize money depending on particular circumstances.

4. 9. Schedule

DAY	EVENT	
Stage I. October-November 2022		
1	Arrivals*, Opening Ceremony & Technical Meeting	
2	Round 1 Quarter finals	Game 1
3		Game 2
4		Free day
5		Game 3
6		Game 4
7		Tie-breaks
8		Free day
9	Round 2 Semi-finals	Game 1
10		Game 2
11		Free day
12		Game 3
13		Game 4
14		Tie-breaks & Closing Ceremony
15	Departures	
Stage II. First quarter 2023		
1	Arrivals*, Opening Ceremony & Technical Meeting	
2	Round 3 Final	Game 1
3		Game 2
4		Game 3
5		Free day
6		Game 4
7		Game 5
8	Game 6	
9	Tie-breaks & Closing Ceremony	
10	Departures	

* Each player has the right to arrive and be accommodated in accordance with [Article 4.10.2](#), three days prior to the first game of each Stage.

The playing schedule can be changed only with the approval of the FIDE President.

4. 10. Travel and Accommodation

4. 10. 1. Each player shall be reimbursed for the travel expenses of one or two persons up to the total amount of one thousand (1,000) euros for each Stage, if travelling from the same Continent and two thousand (2,000) euros for each Stage, if travelling from another Continent.

4. 10. 2. Each player shall be provided with two free single rooms with a full board in the official hotel (minimum 4*) for the whole duration of her participation in WCT:

- Stage I – three days prior to Game I – next day after elimination;
- Stage II – three days prior to Game I – next day after the end of the Match.

4. 10. 3. For security and administrative reasons, all participants are expected to stay in the officially designated hotel.

4. 11. Playing venue

4. 11. 1. GSC shall ensure the playing hall and its environs meet the requirements of the FIDE Regulations for the organisation of Top-Level Tournaments ([FIDE Handbook C.01](#)), amended by GSC if needed.

4. 11. 2. The playing venue shall be decorated with the FIDE flag, the flags of the host nation and the participating federations.

4. 11. 3. The Organiser shall provide water, coffee, tea and soft drinks free of charge for the players, the principals, VIPs and accredited media.

4. 12. Playing Conditions

4. 12. 1. The Anti-Cheating Protection Measures for Level 1 events shall be applied (see [Appendix I](#)).

4. 12. 2. Except with the permission of the Chief Arbiter, only the players, the principals and stewards are allowed in the playing area. During a game a player may communicate with an arbiter or a steward.

4. 12. 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 shall decide what constitutes extraneous equipment disturbing the opponent.

4. 12. 4. While her game is in progress, a player may leave the playing venue only with the permission of the Chief Arbiter and only if she is accompanied by one of the arbiters. In case of this rule violation, the current game shall be declared lost by the player.

4. 12. 5. The anti-doping test procedure shall be regulated by the FIDE Medical Commission according to WADA requirements.

4. 12. 6. The Organiser has to fulfil the requirements of the medical protocol as per standards of the FIDE Medical Commission and host country requirements.

4. 13. Scoresheets

4. 13. 1. The Organiser shall provide scoresheets according to the specifications provided by GSC.

4. 13. 2. At the end of each game the players' original score sheets shall be submitted to the Chief Arbiter, who shall hand them to FIDE. Refusal of either player to sign the scoresheets shall be penalised according to [Article 12.9.](#) of the Laws of Chess. After the players have signed the scoresheets, the Arbiter shall countersign to confirm the results.

4. 14. Players conduct

4. 14. 1. The dress code shall be strictly observed for the tournament and all the official events and press-conferences.

4. 14. 1. 1. Dress code:

- neat shirt/blouse and formal suit (with slacks or skirt), or
- dress.

4. 14. 1. 2. No players with t-shirts, jeans, shorts, sneakers, baseball caps or inappropriate dress shall be allowed in a playing venue. Any requests to wear national or traditional dress shall be approved by the FIDE Supervisor.

4. 14. 2. The players are required to attend Technical Meetings (unless the Chief Arbiter permits otherwise).

4. 14. 3. The players are required to be present at all official functions during the tournament approved by GSC including the Opening and Closing Ceremonies as well as official receptions.

4. 14. 4. The players are expected to co-operate reasonably with the media. The players are required to make themselves available for short interviews immediately after each standard game.

4. 14. 5. The players are required to make themselves available for the daily press conferences.

4. 14. 6. The tournament's winner is required to attend the final press conference after the event has ended and to provide an exclusive interview for official websites if requested by the Press Officer.

4. 14. 7. The players shall strictly abide by all medical regulations approved by FIDE and/or the Organiser. 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.

4. 14. 8. If a player fails to fulfil her duties listed in [Articles 4.14.1 – 4.14.7](#), undermines the reputation of FIDE, the Organiser and sponsors, other players, hosting country or city or conducts herself in a manner contrary to the spirit of sportsmanship or the FIDE Code of Ethics, she shall be penalised as follows: 5% of her prize money shall be forfeited to the Organiser and a further 5% to FIDE for each breach. In cases of serious misconduct, the player may be disqualified from WCT. Such decisions can be taken only by FIDE Council.

4. 15. Principals

The Principals are:

- a) FIDE President
- b) FIDE Deputy President or FIDE Director General;
- c) Chief Arbiter and Deputy Chief Arbiter.
- d) FIDE Supervisor (Technical Delegate) – Chairman of the Appeals Committee;
- e) Press Officer;

- f) Representative of the FIDE Medical Commission;
- g) GSC member (if needed).

4. 16. Arbiters

- 4. 16. 1.** For each Stage, the two arbiters (Chief Arbiter and Deputy Chief Arbiter) shall be nominated by GSC. No arbiter may belong to the same federation as any of the players.
- 4. 16. 2.** During play either the Chief Arbiter or his/her Deputy shall be present in the playing area.
- 4. 16. 3.** The Deputy Chief Arbiter shall also perform functions of the Fair-Play Officer.
- 4. 16. 4.** The Chief Arbiter may, in consultation with the GSC, issue additional written regulations to inform the exact playing hours and take care of other technical details not covered by these Regulations.
- 4. 16. 5.** Within one week after the end of the Stage the Chief Arbiter shall submit a report in English to GSC. The report shall contain the result of each game and also a general description of the course of the event. If there are any difficulties, conflicts or incidents, they shall be described together with the measures taken to deal with them.

4. 17. Appeals Committee

- 4. 17. 1.** GSC shall appoint the FIDE Supervisor (Technical Delegate) for each Stage, who shall also be the Chairman of the Appeals Committee. GSC shall appoint, for each Stage, two other members of the Appeals Committee from different Federations who shall work remotely. These three Federations shall have no players representing them in WCT.
- 4. 17. 2.** All appeals and protests shall be submitted in writing to the Appeals Committee not more than two hours after the relevant standard game, or the particular infringement complained against, and not more than fifteen minutes after any of tie-break games.
- 4. 17. 3.** Each protest shall be accompanied by a deposit fee of five hundred (500) euros or the equivalent in local currency. If an appeal or a protest is accepted, the fee shall be returned. If an appeal or a protest is rejected, the fee may be forfeited to FIDE upon a decision of the Chairman of the Appeals Committee.
- 4. 17. 4.** The Appeal Committee may decide on the following matters:
 - a) appeal against a decision by an arbiter,
 - b) protest against a player's behaviour,
 - c) any appeal which the Committee considers relevant.
- 4. 17. 5.** The Appeal Committee shall endeavour to find binding solutions that are within FIDE legal framework and the true spirit of the FIDE motto, Gens Una Sumus.
- 4. 17. 6.** The Appeal Committee shall endeavour to make a decision within two hours after submission of a protest.
- 4. 17. 7.** The written decision of the Appeals Committee arising from any dispute in respect of these regulations shall be final.
- 4. 17. 8.** Within one week after the end of the event the Chairman of the Appeals Committee shall submit a report in English to GSC.

4. 18. Ceremonies

- 4. 18. 1.** The Opening Ceremonies shall take place on the day prior to the first game of each Stage.
- 4. 18. 2.** The program of the Opening Ceremony shall be approved by FIDE Supervisor, such approval shall not be unreasonably withheld. Cultural program and speeches totalling up to 60 minutes are usually welcome. The FIDE Anthem and the Anthem of the hosting country shall be played.
- 4. 18. 3.** The Closing Ceremonies shall take place on the day of semi-finals and final tie-breaks. FIDE trophies for the WCT winner and runner-up, as well as gold, silver and two bronze medals shall be provided by the Organiser and approved by FIDE Supervisor. The FIDE Anthem, the Anthem of the winner's nation and the Anthem of the hosting nation shall be played.

5. Media

5. 1. Website

The Organiser is responsible for managing, updating and reviewing the official web domain which is used for the event: <http://womenscandidates.fide.com>.

5. 2. Communications

5. 2. 1. All official written communications, in print or online form, shall identify FIDE as the governing body of WCT.

5. 2. 2. All official communications shall use the official name for the event, in full: FIDE Women's Candidates Tournament 2022.

5. 2. 3. All pre-tournament public communications regarding the event (e.g. joint press releases from FIDE and the Organiser) shall be co-written and scheduled in coordination with the FIDE Chief Marketing and Communications Officer.

5. 3. Press Officer designated by FIDE

5. 3. 1. GSC shall appoint the Press Officer for WCT. The Organiser shall co-operate with the Press Officer regarding the accreditation and hospitality for journalists and media and the facilities available at any Press Centre that the Organiser chooses to provide, and assists him/her to establish contacts with the local media.

5. 3. 2. All content shown at <http://womenscandidates.fide.com> shall be reviewed and approved by the Press Officer. All live images, live broadcasting (Internet TV) pictures and all the other content for the full event are carried on both official domains, plus any other web domain that has been agreed between the Organiser and GSC prior to WCT. In cases of conflicting information and press statements, the views expressed by the Press Officer shall be the authentic version.

5. 3. 3. The Organiser shall warrant that <http://womenscandidates.fide.com> is managed in a professional way and furthermore that it is capable of handling the traffic and publicity that is required for such events. Statistics of traffic and full reports on web performance shall be provided to GSC.

5. 3. 4. The Press Officer shall report to the FIDE Chief Marketing and Communications Officer.

5. 3. 5. The Press Officer shall be a member of the panel at any Press Conferences conducted during WCT.

5. 4. Photography and video

5. 4. 1. Only photographers and camera crew expressly authorised by the Press Officer or the FIDE Chief Marketing and Communications Officer may work in the playing venue.

5. 4. 2. Television cameras shall try to minimise any inconvenience for the players and may only be allowed if the Chief Arbiter deems their use to be unobtrusive.

5. 4. 3. The use of flash is not allowed. An exception could be made only if the particularities of the venue force the photographers to stay more than six meters away from the players. Even in those exceptional circumstances, it is restricted to the first five minutes of standard games, the first three minutes of rapid games and the first minute of blitz games (for eventual tie-break games).

5. 4. 4. The Organiser shall provide FIDE 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. FIDE can make use of these materials as specified in Chapter 8.

6. Selection of the Organiser

6. 1. Any Federation member of FIDE or any organiser approved by the national federation or by FIDE may apply for organisation of WCT (entirely or partially).

6. 2. Each application shall contain the following:

- a) Proposed exact place and dates.
- b) Proposed tournament venue.
- c) Proposed financial and logistic conditions.

6. 3. The FIDE Council shall decide which applicant shall be chosen. The decision reached shall be based on the following criteria, which are to be viewed as a whole:

- a) prize fund
- b) playing conditions

- c) providing visas to all players, trainers and officials
- d) security assistance for all players and officials
- e) chess activity both actual and potential in the country hosting the event
- f) media possibilities
- g) potential development of chess worldwide, including continent rotation principle
- h) climate conditions during the period of the tournament
- i) taxation conditions in the hosting country in respect of the prize fund.

6. 4. Upon FIDE's selection of the Organiser of the event, a contract shall be signed between FIDE and the Organiser regarding all financial and commercial aspects of WCT.

7. Financial issues

7. 1. Before the end of the event, FIDE shall be reimbursed for its direct expenses incurred in the organisation of WCT. This shall be a fixed sum agreed in the contract between the Organiser and FIDE. This sum includes pre-expenses (inspections), stipends, traveling expenses for the Principals and other expenses mentioned in the contract.

7. 2. Stipends

The stipends to be paid to the Principals of the event by the Organiser are:

Principal	Stipend, euros	
	Stage I	Stage II
Chief Arbiter	3,500	2,500
Deputy Chief Arbiter	2,600	1,800
Technical Delegate - Chairman of the Appeals Committee	2,900	2,000
Members of the Appeals Committee (remotely)	1,000 x 2	700 x 2
Press Officer	2,900	2,000
Member of the FIDE Medical Commission	2,000	1,400
TOTAL	15,900	11,100

7. 3. Travel Expenses of the FIDE Principals

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, all other Principals shall be compensated by the Organiser for their travel expenses up to a maximum of one thousand (1,000) euros for each Stage if travelling from the same continent, up to one thousand five hundred (1,500) euros for each Stage if travelling from another continent.

7. 4. Accommodation of the FIDE Principals

Accommodation with full board in a suite in a 4-5-star hotel shall be offered by the Organiser for the FIDE President. Accommodation with full board in a standard room in the same hotel shall be offered by the Organiser for each Principal. Extra expenses shall be covered by the Organiser only for the FIDE President. The Organiser may alternatively choose to provide the Principals with the daily allowance of seventy (70) euros/day instead of full board.

7. 5. Local transportation.

Transfer from and to 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 agreed between the Organiser and GSC. Local transport shall also be provided for the players to official functions, if necessary.

7. 6. Personnel

The Organiser shall provide sufficient personnel to assist in the playing hall, press room, VIP room, and at Ceremonies according to the agreement made with FIDE.

7. 7. Fair-play measures

The Organiser shall cover the costs associated with implementing the fair play regulations up to ten thousand (10,000) Euros for each Stage.

7. 8. If any provision of the agreement signed between the Organiser and FIDE (see [Article 6.4](#)) is in contradiction with the provisions of the current paragraph (par 7), the provision of the agreement shall prevail.

8. Commercial issues

8. 1. FIDE retains all commercial and media rights of the event, including internet. These rights can be granted by FIDE to the Organiser on conditions specified in the contract signed between FIDE and the Organiser.
8. 2. The radio and television rights, including photo, video and film rights, belong to FIDE. These can be granted by FIDE to the Organiser on conditions specified in the contract signed between FIDE and the Organiser.
8. 3. FIDE has the exclusive rights for live games transmission on Internet. FIDE shall provide to the Organiser the signal for online game display in the different function rooms as agreed between the parties. These rights as described here can be granted by FIDE to the Organiser.
8. 4. FIDE has the right to enter into advertisement agreements either with the Organiser or Sponsors of the event requiring players to wear attire with the branding of sponsors.
8. 5. Players shall not wear, use or display 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 FIDE Supervisor.
8. 6. The income from admission charges goes to the Organiser.
8. 7. The Organiser shall produce a detailed budget for the event, which shall be approved by GSC.
8. 8. No proposed sponsor shall be in conflict with the regulations of the International Olympic Committee.
8. 9. The FIDE logo and the head of the corporate logo are displayed below:



The FIDE logo shall be displayed in a black colour 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.

APPENDIX I

FIDE LAWS OF CHESS & ANTI-CHEATING PROTECTION MEASURES

as valid since 1 January 2018 and published on the FIDE website:

<https://handbook.fide.com/chapter/E012018>

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