



Regulations for the FIDE Open World Rapid & Blitz Championships 2023

Samarkand, Uzbekistan, 25 – 31 December

1. Scope

1. 1. The governing body of the Open World Rapid & Blitz Championships 2023 (hereinafter referred to as R&B) is the International Chess Federation (FIDE).

1. 2. 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. 3. The body responsible for adopting and changing these Regulations is the FIDE Council (upon GSC's recommendations).

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. Participation in R&B

2. 1. The following players are eligible to participate in R&B:

- the players rated at least 2550 in any of the twelve most recent FIDE rating lists (Standard, Rapid or Blitz) at the moment of the beginning of R&B;
- the reigning National Champions (in Standard, Rapid, Blitz) representing their National Federation regardless of their title or rating.

2. 2. Up to 30 players can be nominated by FIDE President.

2. 3. The Organiser is entitled to invite up to 15 additional players of his/her own choice.

3. Registration to R&B

3. 1. It is the responsibility of players, rather than Federations, to register their entries for R&B.

3. 2. Player's entry fee is to be paid to the Organiser:

- one hundred (100) USD, if paid not later than ten days before the beginning of R&B;
- two hundred (200) USD, if paid nine days before the beginning of R&B or later.

4. R&B Technical Regulations

4. 1. Format & System

4. 1. 1. Tournaments are played according to the rules of "inadequate supervision" of Rapidplay ([FIDE Handbook, E.01 Appendices, A.2 and A.5](#)).

4. 1. 2. RAPID: Swiss system, thirteen rounds.

4. 1. 3. BLITZ: Swiss system, twenty-one rounds.

4. 2. Time control

4. 2. 1. The games are played using the electronic clocks and boards approved by FIDE.

4. 2. 2. RAPID: 15 minutes + 10 seconds increment per move, starting from move 1.

4. 2. 3. BLITZ: 3 minutes + 2 seconds increment per move, starting from move 1.

4.2.4. In both tournaments, there is no default time. No penalty shall be imposed on a player if he/she is late for any of his/her games.

4.3. Conditions of victory

4.3.1. The player with the most points (1 point for each win, half a point for each draw, 0 for each loss) shall be declared the World Rapid / World Blitz Champion.

If the top two or more players score the same number of points, a tie-break to determine the World Rapid / World Blitz Champion is decided according to [Article 4.3.2.2](#). Notwithstanding, all prize money is divided equally among all the players in tie (see [Article 4.4.1](#)).

4.3.2. Tie-breaks

4.3.2.1. If two or more players score the same points, the tie is broken by the following criteria, in order of priority:

- a) Buchholz Cut 1;
- b) Buchholz;
- c) Average rating of Opponents (rapid rating – in rapid, blitz rating – in blitz tournament*) Cut 1 (AROC 1)**;
- d) Direct encounter between the players in tie;
- e) Drawing of lots.

* A player's standard rating shall be used for the starting list, pairings (see [Article 4.6](#)) and tie-break calculation:

- a) in the Rapid tournament, if the player has no rapid rating;
- b) in the Blitz tournament, if the player has no blitz rating.

** All forfeits and byes are cut from the calculation of AROC 1. If a player has one or more forfeits or byes, then no additional results are cut from the calculation of AROC 1.

All tie-breaks are calculated as described in [Article C.07](#) of the FIDE Handbook.

4.3.2.2. If there is a tie for the 1st place, a play-off shall determine the World Rapid / World Blitz Champion.

A1) If there are 2 players tied, a match of two games shall be played between them with a time control of 3 minutes for each player + 2 seconds increment per move, starting from move 1. A drawing for colours shall determine who has white pieces in game 1; the colours shall be reversed in game 2.

A2) If the match in clause A1) above is drawn, a single game shall be played with a time control of 3 minutes for each player + 2 seconds increment per move, starting from move 1. The player placed higher in the final standings according to the tie-break criteria (see [Art. 4.3.2.1](#)) shall get white pieces.

A3) If the game in clause A2) above is drawn, another game shall be played with a time control of 3 minutes for each player + 2 seconds increment per move, starting from move 1 with the colours reversed.

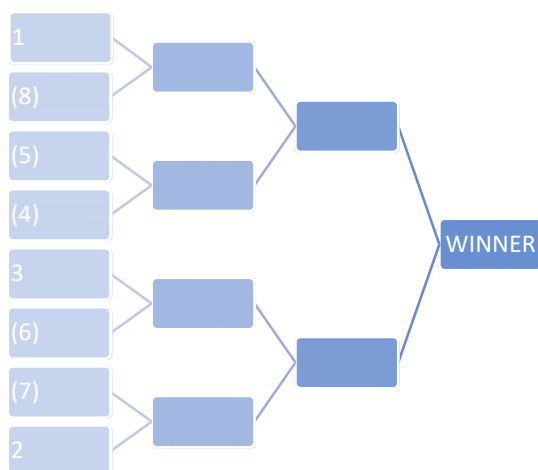
A4) If the game in clause A3) above is drawn, the procedure described in clause A3) above shall be applied until a game is played with a decisive result.

B1) If there are more than 2 players tied, a knockout tournament shall be played. The standard knockout bracket (e. g. see 8-player bracket below) shall be determined by the final standings according to the tie-break criteria (see [Art. 4.3.2.1](#)). Each player shall get his/her number in the bracket corresponding to his/her position in the final standings. Each match shall be a single game played with a time control of 3 minutes for each player + 2 seconds increment per move, starting from move 1. In each match, the player placed higher in the final standings according to the tie-break criteria (see [Art. 4.3.2.1](#)) shall get white pieces.

B2) If in any match in clause B1) above, the game is drawn, another game shall be played with a time control of 3 minutes for each player + 2 seconds increment per move, starting from move 1 with the colours reversed.

B3) If the game in clause B2) above is drawn, the procedure described in clause B2) above shall be applied until a game is played with a decisive result.

Up to 8-player bracket



If the number of players is less than 8, the opponent of a missing player shall advance to the next round.

4. 4. Prizes

4. 4. 1. Distribution of prizes in USD

World Rapid	Prize	World Blitz	Prize
1 st place	60,000	1 st place	60,000
2 nd place	50,000	2 nd place	50,000
3 rd place	40,000	3 rd place	40,000
4 th place	30,000	4 th place	30,000
5 th place	25,000	5 th place	25,000
6 th place	22,000	6 th place	22,000
7 th place	18,000	7 th place	18,000
8 th place	14,000	8 th place	14,000
9 th place	11,000	9 th place	11,000
10 th place	8,000	10 th place	8,000
11 th -16 th places	5,000 each	11 th -16 th places	5,000 each
17 th -25 th places	3,000 each	17 th -25 th places	3,000 each
26 th - 35 th places	1,500 each	26 th - 35 th places	1,500 each
TOTAL	350,000	TOTAL	350,000

All prize money is divided equally among the players with the same score.

4. 4. 2. The prize money shall be paid by direct banker's order drawn in USD. Within fourteen working days after completion of the event and receiving of player's bank details, FIDE shall transfer players' prize money to his/her bank account. In case if the transfer fails because of wrong bank details, the amount of fifty (50) USD shall be deducted from the second transfer in order to cover additional bank charges.

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

4. 5. Schedule

Day	Event	Rounds	Local Time
December 25 th	Arrival		
	Opening Ceremony		19:30

	Technical Meeting		20:30
December 26 th	Rapid - day 1	1-5	15:00
December 27 th	Rapid - day 2	6-9	15:00
December 28 th	Rapid - day 3	10-13	15:00
December 29 th	Blitz - day 1	1-12	15:00
December 30 th	Blitz - day 2	13-21	14:00
	Closing Ceremony		19:00*
December 31 st	Departure		

*Approximate time. It can start later if the tie-break for the first place is played or there is any delay during the last playing session.

4. 6. Pairings and draw for colours

4. 6. 1. Pairings shall be done according to the FIDE pairing system for Swiss events.

4. 6. 2. The draw for colours shall be made for both tournaments (rapid and blitz) during the Opening Ceremony.

4. 7. Accommodation

4. 7. 1. Accommodation with full board in a standard room (4-star hotel minimum) for six nights shall be offered by the Organiser:

- to players rated at least 2750 in any of the twelve most recent FIDE rating lists (Standard, Rapid or Blitz) at the moment of the beginning of R&B;
- to gold, silver and bronze medallists of the Rapid and Blitz tournaments of R&B 2022.

4. 7. 2. The Organiser shall offer accommodation options for all other players.

4. 8. Playing venue

4. 8. 1. GSC shall ensure the playing venue and its surrounding areas meet the requirements of the FIDE Basic Guidelines for playing venues of FIDE Top-Level Tournaments ([FIDE Handbook C.01](#), see [Appendix 1.b](#)), amended by GSC if needed.

4. 8. 2. The playing venue shall be decorated with the FIDE flag, the flags of the host and the participating federations.

4. 8. 3. The Organiser shall provide water, coffee, tea and soft drinks free of charge for the players, the principals, VIPs and accredited media.

4. 9. Playing Conditions

4. 9. 1. The Anti-Cheating Protection Measures for Level 1 events shall be applied ([FIDE Handbook, A09](#), see [Appendix 1.c](#)).

4. 9. 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.

4. 9. 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.

4. 9. 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. In case of this rule violation, the current game shall be declared lost by the player.

4. 9. 5. The anti-doping test procedure shall be regulated by the FIDE Medical Commission according to WADA requirements.

4. 9. 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. 9. 7. The tournament physician(s) shall be available for the participants for the duration of the tournament.

4. 10. Players conduct

4. 10. 1. Dress code.

4. 10. 1. 1. The dress code shall be determined by GSC based on the recommendations of the FIDE Athletes' Commission.
4. 10. 1. 2. The dress code shall be strictly observed for the tournament and all the official events and press-conferences.
4. 10. 1. 3. Any requests to wear national or traditional dress shall be approved by FIDE Technical Delegate.
4. 10. 1. 4. In case of dispute the issue of acceptability of clothing shall be decided by FIDE Technical Delegate.
4. 10. 2. The players are expected to attend Technical Meetings called by the Chief Arbiter (unless the Chief Arbiter permits otherwise).
4. 10. 3. The players are expected to be present at all official receptions including the Opening and Closing Ceremonies.
4. 10. 4. The players are expected to co-operate with the media. The players are required to make themselves available for short interviews immediately after each daily playing session.
4. 10. 5. The players shall be available for the daily press conference.
4. 10. 6. The winner is required to attend the final press conference after the event has ended and to provide an exclusive interview for the tournament and FIDE website, if requested by the FIDE Press Officer.
4. 10. 7. The top three winners of each event are required to attend the Closing Ceremony.
4. 10. 8. 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. 10. 9. If a player fails to fulfil his/her duties listed in [Articles 4.10.1, 4.10.4 – 4.10.8](#), he/she can be penalised by FIDE Council as follows: 5% of his/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 the event.
4. 10. 10. If a player undermines the reputation of FIDE, the R&B Organiser 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 ([FIDE Handbook A.08](#), see [Appendix 1.d](#)).

4. 11. Principals

The principals are:

- a) FIDE President;
- b) FIDE Deputy President;
- c) Chief Arbiter;
- d) Two Deputy Chief Arbiters;
- e) Two Pairings Officers;
- f) Fair-Play Officer;
- g) FIDE Technical Delegate - Chairman of the Appeals Committee
- h) Two Appeals Committee members;
- i) FIDE Press Officer;
- j) Member of the FIDE Medical Commission (if needed);
- k) GSC member (if needed).

GSC can increase the number of principals if needed.

4. 12. Arbiters and Fair-Play Officers

4. 12. 1. GSC is responsible for appointing the Chief Arbiter, two Deputy Chief Arbiters, the Pairings Officers in accordance with the Regulations for the appointments of Arbiters in World Events ([FIDE Handbook B.06.04](#)) and the Fair-Play Officer in consultation with FPL (FIDE Fair Play Commission). These appointments shall be approved by the FIDE President.
4. 12. 2. During play either the Chief Arbiter or a Deputy Chief Arbiter shall be present in the playing area.
4. 12. 3. GSC, in consultation with the Organiser, shall appoint at least one arbiter per ten games to ensure that all games are reasonably supervised in accordance with the Regulations for the appointments of Arbiters in World Events ([FIDE Handbook B.06.04](#)).

4.12.4. Within one week after the end of the event the Chief Arbiter shall submit a report in English to GSC. The report shall contain the final standings as well as the prizelist and 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.

4.13. Appeals Committee

4.13.1. The Appeals Committee shall be appointed and act in accordance with [FIDE Handbook, C11](#) (see [Appendix 1.e](#)).

4.13.2. Each protest shall be accompanied by a deposit fee of three hundred (300) USD or the equivalent in local currency. If the protest is accepted, the fee shall be returned. If the protest is rejected, the fee may be forfeited to FIDE.

4.13.3. The Chairman of the Appeal Committee shall also fulfil duties of FIDE Technical Delegate.

4.14. Ceremonies

4.14.1. The Opening Ceremony shall take place the day prior to the first round of the Rapid tournament.

4.14.2. The program of the Opening Ceremony shall be approved by FIDE Technical Delegate, such approval shall not be unreasonably withheld. A cultural program and speeches totalling up to 60 minutes are usually welcome. The FIDE Anthem and the Anthem of the hosting nation shall be played.

4.14.3. The Closing Ceremony shall take place on the day of the last round of the Blitz tournament. FIDE trophies for the winners and FIDE medals (gold, silver, bronze) for the top three winners of each tournament are provided by the Organiser. The trophies and the medals shall be approved by FIDE Technical Delegate. The FIDE Anthem, the Anthem of the winner's nation and the Anthem of the hosting nation are 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://worldrapidandblitz.fide.com>. The Organiser shall warrant that <http://worldrapidandblitz.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.

5.2. Communications

5.2.1. All official written communications, in print or online form, as well as activities shall identify FIDE as the governing body of R&B.

5.2.2. All official communications shall use the official name for the event, in full: FIDE Open World Rapid & World Blitz Championships.

5.2.3. All pre-tournament public communications regarding R&B (e.g. joint press releases from FIDE and the Organiser) shall be co-written and scheduled in coordination with the FIDE Head of PR.

5.3. Press Officer designated by FIDE

5.3.1. GSC shall appoint the Press Officer for R&B. The Organiser shall co-operate with the Press Officer regarding the accreditation and hospitality for journalists and media and the facilities available at the 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://worldrapidandblitz.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 official domains, plus any other web domain that has been agreed between the Organiser and GSC prior to R&B. In cases of conflicting information and press statements, the views expressed by the Press Officer shall be the authentic version.

5.3.3. The Press Officer shall report to the FIDE Head of PR.

5.3.4. The Press Officer shall be a member of the panel at any Press Conferences conducted during R&B.

5.4. Photography and video

5. 4. 1. Only photographers and camera crew expressly authorised by the Press Officer or the FIDE Head of PR may work in the playing venue.

5. 4. 2. 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 7](#).

5. 4. 3. Video and photo footage shall be done in accordance with the FIDE Media Regulations ([FIDE Handbook, C09](#), see [Appendix 1.f](#)).

6. Financial issues

6. 1. Before the end of the event, FIDE shall be reimbursed for its direct expenses incurred in the organisation of R&B. This shall be a fixed sum agreed in the contract between the Organiser and FIDE. This sum includes pre-expenses (inspections), work of the FIDE operational team (see [Article 6.2](#)), stipends (see [Article 6.3](#)), traveling expenses for the principals (see [Article 6.4](#)) and other expenses mentioned in the contract.

6. 2. Expenses of the FIDE operational team

The Organiser shall cover all the expenses of the FIDE operational team involved in organisation of R&B (traveling, accommodation, remuneration) up to fifty thousand (50,000) USD. The detailed description of the team's functions shall be included in the contract signed between the Organiser and FIDE.

6. 3. Stipends

6. 3. 1. The stipends to be paid to the principals of R&B by the Organiser are (in USD):

Principal	Stipend, USD	Number	Sum, USD
Chief Arbiter	4,800	1	4,800
Deputy Chief Arbiter	3,600	2	7,200
Pairings Officer	3,600	2	7,200
Fair-play Officer	3,600	1	3,600
Technical Delegate - Chairman of the Appeals Committee	4,000	1	4,000
Member of the Appeals Committee	2,800	2	5,600
Press Officer	4,000	1	4,000
Member of the FIDE Medical Commission	2,800	1	2,800
TOTAL			39,200

6. 3. 2. Any Principal who is active at the Event for only part of the time shall receive only a pro rata portion of his/her stipend.

6. 3. 3. If FIDE decides to add any additional Principal in accordance with [Article 4.11](#), they shall be paid in accordance with the scale indicated in [Article 6.3.1](#).

6. 4. 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 FIDE and the Organiser, all other principals are compensated by the Organiser for their travel expenses up to one thousand one hundred (1,100) USD if travelling from the same continent up to one thousand five hundred (1,500) USD if travelling from another continent.

6. 5. Accommodation of the FIDE principals

Accommodation with full board in a suite in a 4-5-star hotel is offered by the Organiser for the FIDE President. Accommodation with full board in a standard room in the same hotel is offered by the Organiser for each principal. Extra expenses are covered by the Organiser only for the FIDE President.

6. 6. Local transportation

6. 6. 1. Transfer from and to the airport shall be provided by the Organiser for FIDE Principals, arbiters and players, if necessary.

6. 6. 2. 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.

6. 7. Personnel and arbiters

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

6. 8. Broadcast

The Organiser shall produce a high-quality live video and games broadcast of R&B with commentaries in English by at least two commentators. Commentaries in other languages may be arranged by the Organiser upon recommendations of GSC. All expenses related to the broadcast shall be covered by the Organiser. The Organiser is required to deliver broadcast feed(s) to FIDE and its broadcasting partners as per FIDE's obligations with FIDE's broadcasting partners.

6. 9. Medical care

6. 9. 1. The Organiser shall cover the costs of treating acute illnesses including the cost of medicines, but not chronic ailments of the players and FIDE principals.

6. 9. 2. The Organiser shall cover the costs related to the medical protocol (see [Article 4.9.6](#)).

6. 10. Anti-doping control

The Organiser shall cover the costs related to anti-doping testing (see [Article 4.9.5](#)) in accordance with the requirements of the anti-doping protocol.

6. 11. Fair-play measures

The Organiser shall cover the costs associated with implementing the fair play regulations up to ten thousand (10,000) USD, excluding all the expenses for the Fair-Play Officer.

7. Commercial issues

7. 1. FIDE retains all commercial and media rights of R&B, including internet. These rights can be granted by FIDE to the Organiser on conditions specified in the contract signed between FIDE and the Organiser.

7. 2. The radio and television rights, including photo, video and film rights, belong to FIDE. These rights can be granted by FIDE to the Organiser on conditions specified in the contract signed between FIDE and the Organiser. 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. FIDE may use all acquired images for commercial, marketing, organisational and other purposes free of charge. Any image may be used in printed, electronic or any other media, including the internet, and FIDE 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.

7. 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.

7. 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.

7. 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 Technical Delegate.

7. 6. The income from admission charges goes to the Organiser.

7. 7. The Organiser shall produce a detailed budget for the event, which shall be approved by GSC.

7. 8. No proposed sponsor shall be in conflict with the regulations of the International Olympic Committee.

7. 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.

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 CAS (art. 35.1 FIDE Charter). All disputes and claims arising from or in relation to the bidding procedure and obligations of the Organiser may also be submitted to the competent court of the City of Lausanne, Canton Vaud, Switzerland, unless otherwise agreed in the contract with the Organiser.

APPENDIX 1

Useful Links

- a) FIDE Laws of Chess taking effect from 1 January 2023 – <https://handbook.fide.com/chapter/E012023>
- b) Basic Guidelines for playing venues of FIDE Top-Level Tournaments – <https://handbook.fide.com/chapter/C01>
- c) FIDE Anti-Cheating Regulations – <https://handbook.fide.com/files/handbook/ACCProtectionMeasures.pdf>
- d) Ethics & Disciplinary Code – <https://handbook.fide.com/chapter/EthicsAndDisciplinaryCode2022>
- e) FIDE Appeals Committee Procedural Rules – <https://handbook.fide.com/chapter/AppealsCommitteeProceduralRules>
- f) FIDE Media Regulations – <https://handbook.fide.com/chapter/C09>