



Regulations for the FIDE Grand Prix Series 2019

1. Scope

1. 1. Governing Body of the FIDE Grand Prix Series 2019 (hereinafter referred to as GP Series) is the World Chess Federation (FIDE).

1. 2. FIDE Global Strategy Commission (hereinafter referred to as GSC) is in charge for preparing regulations, communicating with the Organizer and the participants, conducting inspections.

1. 3. The body responsible for adopting and changing these Regulations is the FIDE Presidential Board, upon recommendation by GSC.

1. 4. At any time, any circumstance or unforeseen situation not covered in these Regulations shall be referred to the FIDE President for final decision.

2. GP Series Format

2. 1. GP Series consist of four (4) Grand Prix tournaments (hereinafter referred to as GP tournaments) held over 2019:

- 1st – May 16th – 30th;
- 2nd – July 11th – 25th;
- 3rd – November 4th – 18th;
- 4th – December 10th – 24th.

2. 2. Twenty-four (24) participants compete in four GP tournaments:

- twenty (20) qualified players determined according to Article 3.1.a);
- four (4) nominated players determined according to Article 3.1.b).

2. 3. Each of the twenty qualified players participate in three (3) out of four GP tournaments. After the final list of host cities is announced and the dates are allocated to each host city, the players may rank their preferences of tournaments to play in. GSC reserves the right to assign players to tournaments according to the organizational needs. The players for each tournament are announced before the GP Series begins.

2. 4. Each GP tournament is sixteen (16) players knock-out (see Article 5.1.).

2. 5. In each GP tournament every player scores GP points according to his position in the final standings (see Article 5.10.1.).

2. 6. The winner of GP Series is a player who scores the most number of cumulative points earned in all three GP tournaments he played. In the case of two (2) or more players having equal cumulative points in the GP Series standings, the following criteria (in descending order) is used to decide the GP Series Final Ranking:

- No. of 1st places;
- No. of 2nd places;
- No. of actual standard game points scored in the three tournaments;
- Match wins in direct encounters between the players in tie.
- Drawing of lots.

2. 7. The two (2) first players of the GP Series Final Ranking qualify to the FIDE Candidates Tournament to be held in the first half of 2020. Should one of these two players be the current World Champion or has already qualified to the FIDE Candidates Tournament 2020 at the end of the GP Series, his qualification spot goes to the highest placed player in the GP Series Final Ranking who is not the current World Champion and not qualified to the FIDE Candidates Tournament 2020 at the end of GP Series.

Nominated players are not eligible to qualify for the FIDE Candidates Tournament, except when one player was nominated for three tournaments.

2. 8. The accumulated prize fund of the final standings of GP Series is two hundred eighty thousand (280,000) euros.

The prizes are distributed as follows:

PLACE	PRIZE (euros)
1 st	50,000
2 nd	45,000
3 rd	40,000
4 th	35,000
5 th	30,000
6 th	25,000
7 th	20,000
8 th	15,000
9 th	10,000
10 th	10,000
Total	280,000

All prize money is divided equally among the players with the same number of cumulative points in the final standings of GP Series.

3. Qualification for GP Series

3. 1. The players who qualify for GP Series are determined according to the following criteria:

a) Average rating of the twelve (12) monthly FIDE Standard Rating Lists starting from February 2018 to January 2019.

Twenty (20) players qualify by their average rating.

For the purpose of deciding twenty (20) qualifiers, the average rating from the twelve FIDE Standard Rating Lists from February 2018 to January 2019 is used. In case of equality, two decimals are taken into consideration. If the numbers are still equal, the total number of rated games in all 12 standard rating periods is decisive: the player with the most number of games qualifies.

A player who appears inactive at least once in the twelve FIDE Standard Rating Lists from February 2018 to January 2019 is not eligible.

b) One player is nominated by each Organizer. The same player may be nominated by different Organizers for different tournaments.

The nominated players must be ranked among the top hundred (100) players in the world at least twice in the twelve FIDE Standard Rating Lists from February 2018 to January 2019. In case the same player is nominated by the Organizer for 3 tournaments, such player is entitled to participate in the GP Series Ranking.

3. 2. If any replacement is needed for a player qualified by average rating including due to a withdrawal or a refusal of participation, the average rating serves for the purpose, as described in Article 3.1.a).

3. 3. If any replacement is needed for a nominated player including due to a withdrawal or a refusal of participation, the Organizer who nominated this player shall nominate another one who fits the criteria described in Article 3.1.b).

4. Confirmation of participation in GP Series

4. 1. The list of participants is to be published on the FIDE website together with the player's contract.

4. 2. Each player receives his contract by email. He may also download his contract from the FIDE website. Each player signs and sends his contract to the FIDE Secretariat by the registered email before the fixed deadline indicated in the email sent to each player and announced on the FIDE website. Additional contracts between the Organizer and the players may be signed if needed.

4. 3. A player who does not submit his contract before the deadline is replaced according to Articles 3.2. and 3.3. (FIDE may accept late contracts received after the deadline only for reasons GSC considers to be admissible).

4. 4. A player who signs his contract but withdraws is replaced by a player as described in Articles 3.2. and 3.3.

4. 5. Players who fail to provide a satisfactory reason for withdrawal, after they have signed the player's contract, may be sanctioned by the FIDE Presidential Board.

5. GP tournament regulations

5. 1. Format & System

The 16 players play a knock-out tournament (4 Rounds). All four Rounds are played with two standard games matches.

Round 1: 16 players

Round 2: 8 players

Semi-finals: 4 players

Final: 2 players

5. 2. Travel and Accommodation

5. 2. 1. Each player gets his travel expenses reimbursed (based on the standard economy class or comparable tariffs).

5. 2. 2. Each player is provided with a free single room with full board in the official hotel (minimum 4*) from the arrival day to the next day after he finishes the tournament.

5. 2. 3. For security and administrative reasons, all participants are expected to stay in the officially designated hotel(s).

5. 3. Playing venue

5. 3. 1. GSC ensures the playing hall and its environs meet the requirements of the FIDE Regulations for the organization of Top-level Tournaments (FIDE Handbook C.01).

5. 3. 2. The playing venue is decorated with the FIDE flag, the IOC flag, the flags of the host and the participating federations.

5. 3. 3. The Organizer provides, free of charge, coffee, tea and soft drinks for the players, principals, VIPs and accredited media.

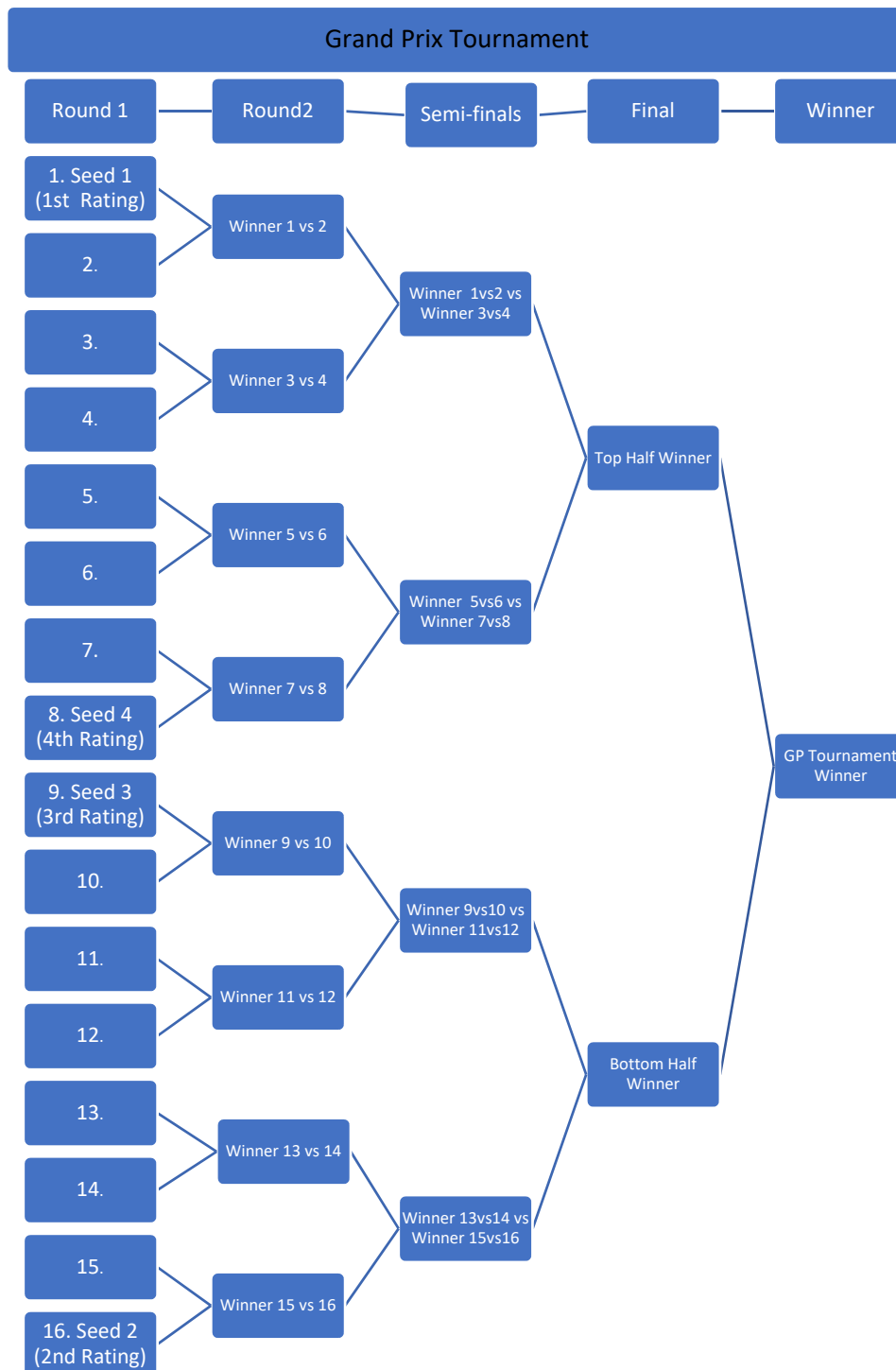
5. 4. Schedule

DAY	EVENT	
Day 1	Opening Ceremony & Technical Meeting	
Day 2	Round 1	Game 1
Day 3		Game 2
Day 4		Tie-break
Day 5	Round 2	Game 1
Day 6		Game 2
Day 7		Tie-break
Day 8	Semi-finals	Game 1
Day 9		Game 2
Day 10		Tie-break
Day 11	Free Day	
Day 12	Final	Game 1
Day 13		Game 2
Day 14		Tie-break

	Closing Ceremony
Day 15	Departure

5. 5. Pairings

5. 5. 1. The pairings are made as shown below



5. 5. 2. Four (4) seeded players having the highest standard rating at the beginning of the tournament are given starting numbers 1, 8, 9 and 16 as shown in Article 5.5.1. If two (2) or more players have the same standard rating, they are seeded according to their position in the latest FIDE Standard Rating List.

5. 5. 3. For the purpose of distribution of other twelve (12) starting numbers, the random drawing of lots is made during the opening ceremony.

5. 6. Drawing of colors

5. 6. 1. The draw of colors for Round 1 is made during the Opening Ceremony. All odd starting numbers have the same color in the first game of Round 1.

5. 6. 2. Starting from Round 2 in the first game of each match a higher rated player has the color opposite to the color he had in the first game of the previous match.

5. 7. Time control

5. 7. 1. The games are played using the electronic clocks and boards approved by FIDE.

5. 7. 2. The time control for each game is: 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.

5. 8. Conditions of victory

In each Round, the first player to score 1.5 or more points out of two standard games is the winner of the match. If the scores are level, a tie is broken according to Article 5.9. below.

5. 9. Tie-breaks

5. 9. 1. Tie-breaks are held according to the special technical regulations described in Annex 2.

5. 9. 2. After a drawing of colors, two (2) tie break games are played with time control of 25 minutes for each player + 10 seconds increment per move, starting from move 1.

5. 9. 3. If the score is level after the games in paragraph 5.9.2., then after a new drawing of colors, two (2) games are played with time control of 10 minutes for each player + 10 seconds increment per move, starting from move 1.

5. 9. 4. If the scores are level after the games in paragraph 5.9.3., then after a new drawing of colors, two (2) games are played with time control of 5 minutes for each player + 3 seconds increment per move, starting from move 1.

5. 9. 5. If the score is still level after the games in paragraph 5.9.4., then one (1) sudden death game is played. The player who wins the drawing of lots may choose the color. The player with the white pieces receives 5 minutes; the player with the black pieces receives 4 minutes whereupon; after move 60, both players receive an increment of 2 seconds per move starting from move 61. In case of a draw the player with the black pieces is declared the winner.

5. 10. Prizes and GP points

5. 10. 1. The minimum prize fund amounts to one hundred thirty thousand (130,000) euros. The amount is cleared of any local taxes.

Round	Number of Players	Prize	Sum of Prizes per Round	GP Points *
Round 1	8	5,000	40,000	0
Round 2	4	8,000	32,000	1
Semi-finals	2	10,000	20,000	3
Runner-up	1	14,000	14,000	5
Winner	1	24,000	24,000	8
TOTAL	16		130,000	

*A player gets one (1) additional GP Point for every match won without tie-break.

5. 10. 2. The prize money are paid by direct banker's order drawn in Euro. Within fourteen (14) working days after completion of the event and reception of player's bank details, FIDE transfers players' prize money to his bank

account.

5. 10. 3. If a player withdraws after the start of the tournament, FIDE decides upon paying out his prize money depending on particular circumstances. In any case, in absence of the serious and sufficient cause outside of control of the player, the prize money of the player shall be forfeited and returned to the Organizer.

5. 10. 4. Although FIDE endeavors to sign an agreement with the Organizer stating that the prize funds are net and free of all local taxes, FIDE is not responsible for any national local tax deducted from the prize money. FIDE gives all necessary assistance to the players if the Organizer acts to the contrary.

5. 11. Playing Conditions

5. 11. 1. The fair-play measures are applied according to the FIDE anti-cheating regulations for the top official events.

5. 11. 2. Except with the permission of the Chief Arbiter, only the players, the principals and steward (-ess)s are allowed in a playing area. A player may communicate with an arbiter or a steward.

5. 11. 3. The players are not permitted to bring into a playing area telephone, technical and other equipment extraneous to play, which may in any way disturb or upset the opponent. The Chief Arbiter shall decide what constitutes extraneous equipment disturbing the opponent.

5. 11. 4. During the playing session, a player may leave a playing area only with the permission of the Chief Arbiter and only if he is accompanied by one of the arbiters.

5. 11. 5. The anti-doping test procedure is regulated by the contract between FIDE and the Organizer.

5. 12. Score sheets

5. 12. 1. The Organizer provide score sheets according to the specifications provided by GSC.

5. 12. 2. At the end of each standard game the players' original score sheets is to be given to the Chief Arbiter, who submits them to FIDE. Refusal of either player to sign the score sheets shall be penalized according to the Laws of Chess (FIDE Handbook, E.01, Article 12.9). After the players have signed the score sheets, the Arbiter countersigns to confirm the results.

5. 13. Players conduct

5. 13. 1. The dress code is strictly observed for the tournament and all the official events and press-conferences.

5. 13. 1. 1. Dress code for men: neat shirt and formal suit.

5. 13. 1. 2. Dress code for women: neat shirt/blouse and formal suit (with slacks or skirt) or dress.

5. 13. 1. 3. No players with t-shirts, jeans, shorts, sneakers, baseball caps or inappropriate dress are allowed in a playing area. Any requests to wear national or traditional dress must be approved by GSC.

5. 13. 2. The players are required to attend the Technical Meeting on the day of the Opening Ceremony at a time to be decided by the Chief Arbiter and the Organizer. If necessary, the Chief Arbiter may call other Technical Meetings.

5. 13. 3. The players are required to be present at all official events approved by GSC including official receptions and the opening ceremony.

5. 13. 4. The players are expected to co-operate reasonably with the media. General interviews with them have to be arranged through the FIDE Press Officer.

5. 13. 5. The players are required to make themselves available for post-game press conferences, of not more than 20 minutes duration, immediately after the game.

5. 13. 6. The tournament's winner is obliged to attend the final press conference after the event has ended and to provide an exclusive interview for the tournament and the FIDE websites and tot less than five (5) media outlets if

requested by the FIDE Press Officer.

5. 13. 7. The participants of the final match are required to attend the closing ceremony.

5. 13. 8. The players are requested to note the requirements of FIDE Regulations (FIDE Handbook, C.01, Article 8.1) in respect of their dignified appearance at all times during the event.

5. 13. 9. If a player fails to appear at any approved function of the tournament such as official receptions, press conferences or interviews, expresses publicly his inappropriate attitude towards FIDE, the GP Tournament Organizer and sponsors, other players, hosting country or city or conducts himself in a manner contrary to the spirit of sportsmanship or the FIDE Code of Ethics, he shall be penalized as follows: 5% of his prize money shall be forfeited to the Organizer and a further 5% to FIDE for each breach. In cases of serious and/or repeated misconduct, the player may be disqualified from the event. Such decisions can be taken and/or approved by the FIDE Presidential Board.

5. 14. Principals

The Principals are:

- a) FIDE President
- b) FIDE Deputy President or FIDE Director General;
- c) Chief Arbiter and Deputy Chief Arbiter.
- d) Supervisor-Chairman of the Appeals Committee and two (2) other members;
- e) Member of FIDE Medical Commission;
- f) FIDE Press Officer;
- g) GSC member.

5. 15. Arbiters

5. 15. 1. The arbiters are nominated by FIDE.

5. 15. 2. During play either the Chief Arbiter or his Deputy must be present in a playing area.

5. 15. 3. The Deputy Chief Arbiter performs also functions of the Fair-Play Officer.

5. 15. 4. Within one (1) week after the end of the event the Chief Arbiter submits a report in English to GSC. The report contains the result of each individual 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. The report is supplemented by adding two copies of the bulletins and the scoresheets of the games.

5. 15. 5. The Chief Arbiter may issue additional written regulations, in consultation with GSC, to inform the exact playing hours and take care of other details not covered by these regulations.

5. 16. Appeals Committee

5. 16. 1. FIDE nominates the Supervisor-Chairman and the two (2) other members of the Appeals Committee, all from different Federations.

5. 16. 2. None of the three (3) members of the Appeals Committee sits in judgment in a dispute involving a player from his Federation (except where the dispute is between two (2) players from his Federation).

5. 16. 3. All protests must be submitted in writing to the Appeals Committee not more than two (2) hours after the relevant playing session, or the particular infringement complained against.

5. 16. 4. Each protest must be accompanied by a deposit fee of five hundred (500) euros 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.

5. 16. 5. The Appeals Committee may decide on the following matters:

- a) appeal against a decision by an arbiter,
- b) protest against a player's behavior,
- f) all other matters which the Committee considers important.

5. 16. 6. The Appeals Committee endeavors to find binding solutions that are within the true spirit of the FIDE motto Gens Una Sumus.

5. 16. 7. The Appeals Committee endeavors to make a decision within two (2) hours after submission of a protest.

5. 16. 8. The written decision of the Appeals Committee arising from any dispute in respect of these Regulations is final.

5. 16. 9. The Supervisor-Chairman ensures that the event is held in accordance with these Regulations and secures fair and equal conditions for all the players.

5. 16. 10. Within one (1) week after the end of the event, the Supervisor-Chairman of the Appeals Committee submits a report in English to GSC.

5. 17. FIDE Press Officer

5. 17. 1. The organizer is responsible for managing, updating and reviewing the official web domain which is used for the event: gp.xxxx2019.fide.com where xxxx refers to the city where the event is held. All content is reviewed and approved by the FIDE Press Officer. All live images, live broadcasting (Internet TV) pictures and all the other content for the full event details are carried on the official domain. The organizer shall not develop any other website. In cases of conflicting information and press statements, the views expressed by the FIDE Press Officer is the authentic version.

5. 17. 2. All activities of both FIDE and the Organizer identify FIDE being the Governing Body of GP Tournament. The organizer warrants that the official domain for the event 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 are provided by the FIDE Press Officer to both GSC and the Organizer.

5. 17. 3. The Organizer co-operates with the FIDE Press Officer concerning the accreditation and hospitality for journalists and media and the facilities available at the Press Centre.

5. 17. 4. The FIDE Press Officer is a member of the panel at Press Conferences conducted during the event.

5. 18. Photography and Television

5. 18. 1. Only photographers and camera crew expressly authorized by the FIDE Press Officer may work in the playing venue.

5. 18. 2. Flash may be used only during the first five (5) minutes of standard games, the first three (3) minutes of rapid games and the first minute of blitz games. Organizer may withdraw the accreditation of any media representative who violates this rule subject to approval of the Supervisor or the Chief Arbiter.

5. 18. 3. Television cameras must be unobtrusive and may only be used if the Chief Arbiter deems their use to be unobtrusive.

5. 19. Ceremonies

5. 19. 1. The Opening Ceremony takes place on the day prior to Round 1.

5. 19. 2. The program of the Opening Ceremony shall be approved by GSC, such approval shall not be unreasonably withheld. Cultural program and speeches totaling up to 60 minutes are usually welcome. FIDE Anthem and the Anthem of the hosting country is played.

5. 19. 3. The Closing Ceremony takes place on the day of the Final. FIDE trophy for the winner of GP tournament is provided by the Organizer and is approved by GSC. The FIDE Anthem, the Anthem of the winner's country and the Anthem of the hosting country are played.

6. Financial issues related to GP Tournament

6. 1. Before the end of each GP Tournament, FIDE is reimbursed for its direct expenses incurred in the organization. This is a fixed sum agreed in the contract between the Organizer and FIDE. This sum includes pre-expenses (inspections), stipends, traveling expenses for the Principals and other expenses mentioned in the contract.

6. 2. Stipends

The stipends to be paid to the Principals of GP tournament by the Organizer are (in euros):

Chief Arbiter:	4,000
Deputy Chief Arbiter:	3,000
Supervisor-Chairman of the Appeals Committee	4,000
Members of the Appeals Committee	2,500 each (1000 each in case the members of the Appeals Committee are participating in its meetings remotely and only when such remote participation is allowed by the applicable FIDE regulations)
FIDE Press Officer:	3,000
TOTAL:	19,000

6. 3. Travel Expenses of the FIDE Principals

The FIDE President has the right to business class travel by air, sea or rail, at the Organizer's expense. If other travel conditions are not specified in the contract signed by the Organizer and FIDE, all other Principals shall be compensated by the Organizer for their travel expenses up to a maximum of one thousand (1,000) euros if travelling from the same continent, up to one thousand three hundred (1,300) euros if travelling from another continent.

6. 4. Accommodation of the FIDE Principals

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

6. 5. Local transportation.

Transfer from and to the airport is provided by the Organizer, if necessary. For the FIDE President, a chauffeur-driven car, for the other Principals, a number of cars is made available; their use depends on the position of the hotels, playing hall and media center. Alternatively, a daily allowance in local currency may be provided, the amount is to be agreed between the Organizer and GSC. Local transport is also provided for the players to official functions, if necessary.

6. 6. Personnel

The Organizer provides sufficient personnel to assist in the playing hall, press room, VIP room, and at ceremonies according to the agreement made with GSC.

6. 7. Fair-play measures

The organizer covers all the related costs up to five thousand (5,000) euros.

7. Commercial issues

7. 1. FIDE, or its appointed commercial agency, retains all commercial and media rights of GP Tournaments, including internet. The right as described here can be granted by FIDE to the Organizer.

7. 2. The radio and television rights, including photo, video and film rights, belong to FIDE or its appointed agency. The right as described here can be granted by FIDE to the Organizer.

7. 3. FIDE has the exclusive rights for live games transmission on Internet. FIDE provides to the Organizer the

signal for online game display in the different function rooms as agreed between the parties. This right as described here can be granted by FIDE to the Organizer.

7. 4. FIDE has the right to enter into advertisement agreements either with the Organizer or Sponsors of the event requiring players to wear attire with the branding of sponsors. 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 or FIDE's commercial agency.

7. 5. In case any provision of these Regulations conflicts with the provision of a contract between World Chess Events Limited and FIDE, the latter shall apply.

7. 6. The income provided by GP tournament through admission charges goes to the Organizer.

7. 7. The Organizer draws up a budget as detailed as possible. This is subject to approval of GSC.

7. 8. No proposed sponsor is 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 dark blue color on a white background. The text describing any event must not be larger than twice the size of the word FIDE reproduced in the logo.

7. 10. The event title of the tournament is represented below. The corporate logo should include the above on top and the text in any kind of printed or electronic media must not be larger than twice the size of the word FIDE reproduced in the logo. The name of the city or that of a titled sponsor can be added to the tournament title.



GRAND PRIX 2019

ANNEX 1

WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP TECHNICAL REGULATIONS (FIDE Laws of Chess)

The FIDE Laws of Chess are Annex 1, as valid since 1 January 2018 and published on the FIDE website:

<http://www.fide.com/component/handbook/?id=208&view=article>

ANNEX 2

All tie-break games are played according to the following:

1. The players do not need to record the moves.
2. The player who has the move may stop the clock and consult the Arbiter's score sheet if he thinks that his next move can produce the threefold repetition of position or accomplish the "50 moves" rule. Then he can write the intended move on the score sheet and claim a draw according to the Laws of Chess (FIDE Handbook, E.01, Articles 9.2. and 9.3.). If the claim is found to be correct, the game is immediately ended as a draw. If the claim is found to be incorrect, the Arbiter adds two (2) minutes to the opponent's remaining time and the game continues with the intended move. A maximum of two (2) incorrect claims for a draw can be made by each player. If a player makes a third (3rd) incorrect claim, the arbiter declares the game lost for this player.
3. If a game has ended by resignation, checkmate, time loss, stalemate, triple repetition or any other of the ways described in the FIDE Handbook, E01, Article 5, no claim for irregularities are accepted (irregularities include clock settings and all other described in the FIDE Handbook, E01, Article 7).
4. There is a pause of 10 minutes between all tie-break games, unless the Chief Arbiter decides otherwise.
5. Each tie-break game starts 10 mins after the previous one regardless of games on other boards.