



# Regulations

## for the FIDE Women's Candidates Tournament 2024

Toronto, 3 – 23 April

### 1. Scope

**1. 1.** The governing Body of the FIDE Women's Candidates Tournament (hereinafter referred to as WCT) 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. Qualification

**2. 1.** In accordance with "[Qualification for the FIDE Women's Candidates Tournament 2024](#)" eight players shall qualify for WCT by the following criteria:

**A. 1 spot – FIDE World Championship Match 2023:** Runner-up

**B. 2 spots – FIDE Women's Grand Prix Series 2022-23:** the players who finish 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup>.

**C. 3 spots – FIDE Women's World Cup 2023:** three players who finish 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup>.

If the FIDE Women's World Champion 2023 and/or one of the players qualified via tracks A or B is (are) among these three qualifiers, the unallocated spot(s) shall, in order of priority:

- be awarded by rating\*;
- be awarded to the player who finishes 4th in the FIDE Women's World Cup 2023 (if she has not qualified via tracks A or B);
- became (an) additional spot(s) at the FIDE Women's Grand Swiss 2023.

\* The spot shall be awarded to the player having the highest standard rating among non-qualified players in the January 2024 FIDE rating list, provided she has played at least 30 games rated in the FIDE standard rating lists from February 2023 to January 2024.

**D. 2 spots – FIDE Women's Grand Swiss Tournament 2023:** two players who finish 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup>.

If the FIDE Women's World Champion 2023 and/or one of the players qualified via tracks A, B or C is (are) among these two qualifiers, the unallocated spot(s) shall be awarded to the next non-qualifying player of the FIDE Women's Grand Swiss 2023.

**2. 2.** If any replacement is needed, the spot shall be awarded to the player having the highest standard rating among non-qualified players in the January 2024 FIDE rating list, provided she has played at least 30 games rated in the FIDE standard rating lists from February 2023 to January 2024.

### 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 announced 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 her contract announced 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 FIDE Council.

## **4. Technical Regulations**

### **4. 1. Format & System**

The 8 players play a double round robin tournament (14 rounds).

### **4. 2. Time control and default time**

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

**4. 2. 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.

**4. 2. 3.** A player who arrives in the playing area after the actual start time of her game shall have three hundred (300) 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. 3. Draw by mutual agreement**

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

### **4. 4. Conditions of victory**

**4. 4. 1.** The final standings shall be determined by the number of points scored (1 point for each win, half a point for each draw, 0 for each loss). The winner of WCT shall qualify for the next Women's World Championship Match. Any tie shall be broken according to [Article 4.4.2](#).

### **4. 4. 2. Tie-breaks**

**4. 4. 2. 1.** If there is a tie for first place after 14 rounds, a playoff to determine the winner shall be played.

The play-off may consist of up to three stages.

#### **4. 4. 2. 1. 1. Stage I**

- a) If there are 2 players tied, after a drawing for colours made on the day of Round 14, a match of two games shall be played with a time control of 15 minutes for each player + 10 seconds increment per move, starting from move 1.
- b) If there are between 3 and 6 players (inclusive) tied, after pairings made on the day of Round 14, a single round robin tournament shall be played with a time control of 15 minutes for each player + 10 seconds increment per move, starting from move 1.
- c) If there are either 7 or 8 players tied, after pairings made on the day of Round 14, a single round robin tournament shall be played with a time control of 10 minutes for each player + 5 seconds increment per move, starting from move 1.

**4. 4. 2. 1. 2. Stage II**. Played among players who remain tied for first place after Stage I (see [Article 4.4.2.1.1](#)).

- a) If there are 2 players tied, after a drawing for colours, a match of two games shall be played with a time control of 3 minutes for each player + 2 seconds increment per move, starting from move 1.
- b) If there are more than 2 players tied, after new pairings, a single round robin tournament shall be played with a time control of 3 minutes for each player + 2 seconds increment per move, starting from move 1.

**4. 4. 2. 1. 3. Stage III**. Played among players who remain tied for first place after Stage II (see [Article 4.4.2.1.2](#)).

- a) A knockout tournament shall be played. If there are more than two players, the knockout bracket shall be determined by drawing of lots. Each match shall consist of one game played with a time control of 3 minutes for each player + 2 seconds increment per move, starting from move 1. The colours for the game shall be determined by a drawing of lots.

- b) If the game in clause a) above is drawn, another game shall be played with the colours reversed with a time control of 3 minutes for each player + 2 seconds increment per move, starting from move 1.
- c) If the game in clause b) above is drawn, the procedure described in clause b) above shall be applied until a game is played with a decisive result.

**4. 4. 2. 2.** If a playoff for first place is played (see [Article 4.4.2.1](#)), ties for all positions except for first place shall be broken according to the following criteria, in order of priority:

- a) The later round reached in Stage III of the playoff (see [Article 4.4.2.1.3](#));
- b) The higher number of points scored in Stage II of the playoff (see [Article 4.4.2.1.2](#));
- c) The higher number of points scored in Stage I of the playoff (see [Article 4.4.2.1.1](#));
- d) The tie-break criteria described in [Article 4.4.2.3](#).

**4. 4. 2. 3.** If there is no tie for first place after 14 rounds, ties for all positions shall be broken according to the following criteria, in order of priority:

- a) Sonneborn-Berger System;
- b) Total number of wins in the tournament;
- c) The results of the games between the players involved in the tie;
- d) Drawing of lots.

#### **4. 5. Pairings and draw of colours**

**4. 5. 1.** The draw for pairings and colours shall be conducted by the Chief Arbiter in coordination with the FIDE COO not later than four weeks before the start of WCT.

**4. 5. 2.** Players from the same federation shall play each other in rounds 1 and 8 (if only two) and in rounds 1, 2, 3 and 8, 9, 10, if there are up to three players from the same federation.

**4. 5. 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. 5. 4.** If a player withdraws after completing 50% or more of her games, the rest of her games shall be declared as lost by default. In case a player completes less than 50% of her games, all her results shall be annulled.

#### **4. 6. Prizes**

**4. 6. 1.** The minimum prize fund of WCT shall amount to two hundred fifty thousand (250,000) euros. The amount shall be net and cleared of any local taxes. The money prizes shall be allocated as follows (minimum in euros):

Prize money distribution:

PLACE	PRIZE, euros
1	24,000
2	18,000
3	12,000

All prize money shall be divided equally among the players with the equal score after 14 rounds regardless tie-break results.

In addition, each player gets 1,750 euros for every half point scored.

**4. 6. 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 receiving player's bank details, FIDE shall transfer players' prize money to her bank account.

**4. 6. 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. 7. Schedule**

DATE	TIME	EVENT
3 April	whole day	Arrivals*
	whole day	Media Day
	TBA	Opening Ceremony
	TBA	Technical Meeting
4 April	2:30 pm	Round 1
5 April	2:30 pm	Round 2
6 April	2:30 pm	Round 3
7 April	2:30 pm	Round 4
8 April	2:30 pm	Free day
9 April	2:30 pm	Round 5
10 April	2:30 pm	Round 6
11 April	2:30 pm	Round 7
12 April	2:30 pm	Free day
13 April	2:30 pm	Round 8
14 April	2:30 pm	Round 9
15 April	2:30 pm	Round 10
16 April	2:30 pm	Free day
17 April	2:30 pm	Round 11
18 April	2:30 pm	Round 12
19 April	2:30 pm	Free day
20 April	2:30 pm	Round 13
21 April	2:30 pm	Round 14
22 April	2:30 pm	Tie-breaks
	TBA	Closing Ceremony
23 April	Whole day	Departures

\* Each player has the right to arrive and be accommodated in accordance with [Article 4.8.2](#), three days prior to the first round.

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

#### 4. 8. Travel and Accommodation

**4. 8. 1.** Each player shall be reimbursed for the travel expenses of one or two persons up to the total amount of one thousand five hundred (1,500) euros, if travelling from the same Continent and two thousand five hundred (2,500) euros, if travelling from another Continent.

**4. 8. 2.** Each player shall be provided with two free single rooms with full board in the official hotel (minimum 4\*) for twenty-two nights (three days prior to the first round – departure day).

**4. 8. 3.** For security and administrative reasons, all participants are expected to stay in the officially designated hotel.

#### 4. 9. Playing venue

**4. 9. 1.** GSC shall ensure the playing venue and its surrounding areas meet the requirements of [the Basic Guidelines for playing venues of FIDE Top-Level Tournaments](#) (FIDE Handbook C.01), amended by GSC if needed.

**4. 9. 2.** The playing venue shall be decorated with the FIDE flag, IOC flag, the flags of the host and the participating federations.

**4. 9. 3.** The Organiser shall provide water, coffee, tea and soft drinks free of charge for the players, the principals, VIPs and accredited media.

#### 4. 10. Playing Conditions

**4. 10. 1.** [The Anti-Cheating Protection Measures](#) for Level 1 events shall be applied.

**4. 10. 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. 10. 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. 10. 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. 10. 5.** The anti-doping test procedure shall be regulated by the FIDE Medical Commission according to WADA requirements.

**4. 10. 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. 11. Scoresheets**

**4. 11. 1.** The Organiser shall provide scoresheets according to the specifications provided by GSC.

**4. 11. 2.** At the end of each game the players' original scoresheets 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 those to confirm the results.

#### **4. 12. Players conduct**

**4. 12. 1.** The dress code is strictly observed for the tournament and all the official events and press-conferences.

**4. 12. 1. 1.** Dress cod: neat shirt/blouse and formal suit (with slacks or skirt) or dress.

**4. 12. 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 Technical Delegate.

**4. 12. 2.** The players are required to attend Technical Meetings called by the Chief Arbiter (unless the Chief Arbiter permits otherwise).

**4. 12. 3.** The players are required to be present at all official functions during the tournament including the Opening and Closing Ceremonies as well as official receptions.

**4. 12. 4.** The players are required to participate in a photo or video shooting session to promote of the event, if needed. Its time and place shall be discussed with the players in advance.

**4. 12. 5.** The players are expected to co-operate reasonably with the media. They are required to make themselves available for the daily press conferences or/and interviews with the Press Officer immediately after the game.

**4. 12. 6.** The tournament's winner is required to attend the final press conference after the event and to provide an exclusive interview for official websites if requested by the Press Officer.

**4. 12. 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. 12. 8.** If a player fails to fulfil her duties listed in [Articles 4.12.1 – 4.12.7](#), undermines the reputation of FIDE, the WCT 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. 12. 9.** If a player undermines the reputation of FIDE, the WCT Organiser and sponsors, other players, hosting country or city or conducts herself in a manner contrary to the spirit of sportsmanship, she shall be penalised in accordance with [the FIDE Ethics & Disciplinary Code](#) (FIDE Handbook A.08).

**4. 12. 10.** The players are required to fulfil all obligations listed in their contracts (see [Article 3.2](#)).

#### **4. 13. Principals**

The Principals are:

- a) FIDE President
- b) FIDE Deputy President and/or FIDE CEO;

- c) Chief Arbiter and Deputy Chief Arbiter.
- d) Fair-Play Officer
- e) FIDE Technical Delegate - Chairman of the Appeals Committee;
- f) Press Officer;
- g) Representative of the FIDE Medical Commission (if needed);
- h) GSC member (if needed).

#### **4. 14. Arbiters**

**4. 14. 1.** The two arbiters (Chief Arbiter and Deputy Chief Arbiter) shall be appointed by GSC in accordance with [the Regulations for the appointments of Arbiters in World Events](#) (FIDE Handbook B.06.04). The Fair-Play Officer shall be appointed by GSC. None of these three Principals may belong to the same federation as any of the players.

**4. 14. 2.** During play either the Chief Arbiter or his/her Deputy shall be present at a playing area.

**4. 14. 3.** 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. 14. 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 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. 15. Appeals Committee**

**4. 15. 1.** The Appeals Committee shall be appointed and act in accordance with the [Appeals Committee Procedural Rules](#) (FIDE Handbook, C11).

**4. 15. 2.** GSC shall appoint the FIDE Technical Delegate, who shall also be the Chairman of the Appeals Committee. GSC shall appoint two other members of the Appeals Committee from different Federations who shall work remotely.

**4. 15. 3.** Each protest shall 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.

#### **4. 16. Ceremonies**

**4. 16. 1.** The Opening Ceremony shall take place on the day prior to Round 1.

**4. 16. 2.** The program of the Opening Ceremony shall be approved by FIDE Technical Delegate; 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 nation shall be played.

**4. 16. 3.** The Closing Ceremony shall take place on the day of tie-breaks. FIDE trophy for the winner and gold, silver and bronze medals shall be provided by the Organiser and approved by FIDE Technical Delegate. 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://candidates.fide.com>.

### **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 WCT.

**5. 2. 2.** All official communications shall use the official name for the event, in full: FIDE Women's Candidates Tournament 2024.

**5. 2. 3.** All pre-tournament public communications regarding WCT (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 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://candidates.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 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://candidates.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.** 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).

### **6. Financial issues**

**6. 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.

#### **6. 2. Stipends**

The stipends to be paid to the Principals of the event by the Organiser are (in euros):

Principal	Stipend, €	Number	Sum, €
Chief Arbiter	5,250	1	5,250
Deputy Chief Arbiter	3,900	1	3,900
Fair-play Officer	3,450	1	3,450
Technical Delegate - Chairman of the Appeals Committee	4,350	1	4,350
Member of the Appeals Committee (remotely)	1,500	2	3,000
Press Officer	4,350	1	4,350
Member of the FIDE Medical Commission	3,000	1	3,000
TOTAL			27,300

#### **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 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 if travelling from the same continent, up to one thousand five hundred (1,500) euros if travelling from another continent. The tickets shall be booked by each Principal within two weeks after his/her appointment, upon GCS approval.

#### **6. 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.

#### **6. 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.

#### **6. 6. Personnel**

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

#### **6. 7. Medical care**

**6. 7. 1.** The Organiser shall cover the costs related to the medical protocol (see [Article 4.10.6](#)).

**6. 7. 2.** The organiser shall provide emergency medical care to the players and Principals on the terms, agreed in the contract signed between FIDE and the Organiser.

**6. 7. 3.** All the players and Principals are strongly advised to have their own travel health insurances. Neither FIDE nor the Organiser bear liability to cover any health-related costs.

#### **6. 8. Fair-play measures**

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

### **7. Commercial issues**

**7. 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.

**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.

**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.

## **APPENDIX I**

### **Useful Links**

FIDE Laws of Chess taking effect from 1 January 2023 – <https://handbook.fide.com/chapter/E012023>