

OPEN MASTERS GAMES

ABU DHABI 2026

CHESS



Updated: November 28th, 2025

1. General Information

1.1. Governance

The Chess event will be conducted in line with the competition rules of the FIDE (International Chess Federation) and the UAE Chess Federation.

1.2. Eligibility

In line with the sport-specific rules, an athlete must compete in their designated age group, with their age determined as of 31 December 2026. For example, if you are 39 years old during the Games time but turn 40 by 31 December 2026, you would compete in the 40-44 age category.

Athletes can enter a maximum of three individual events: Standard, blitz & rapid chess, competitive or recreational grade* (*FIDE Rated players will play in the competitive grade tournaments). The age category entered in each of the individual events can be either the athlete's actual age category or a younger category. However, an athlete who chooses to compete in a younger age category can only do so for one event.

- Example #1: an 84-year-old female athlete can enter the 80+ or the 70+ or the 60+ etc women's.
- Example #2: a 42-year-old male athlete can enter the 40+ men's or the 30+ men's. If he is an unrated player, he can join both the competitive and recreational grades.

1.3. Dates

Dates	Feb 7 th Saturday	Feb 8 th Sunday	Feb 9 th Monday	Feb 10 th Tuesday	Feb 11 th Wednesday	Feb 12 th Thursday	Feb 13 th Friday	Feb 14 th Saturday
Rapid								
Standard						Workshop & Chess for all		
Blitz								

1.4. Venue

[Abu Dhabi National Exhibition Centre \(ADNEC\)](#)

2. Competition Information

2.1. Disciplines, Events & Grading

Event	Grade	Category	
		Gender	Age
Standard Chess	Competitive	Male	30+, 40+, 50+, 60+, 70+, 80+
		Female	
	Recreational	Male	
		Female	
Rapid Chess	Competitive	Male	
		Female	
	Recreational	Male	
		Female	
Blitz Chess	Competitive	Male	
		Female	
	Recreational	Male	
		Female	

The following grade definitions have been determined for the Chess competition:

- **Competitive:** Open to players with and without a FIDE rating
- **Recreational:** For social and casual players. **FIDE-rated players are *not* allowed** to compete at this level.

2.2. Format

Standard Chess

- All Standard chess tournaments will be played in a Swiss System of 6 rounds (or or Round-Robin system if the number of participants per category is below 8).
- Time control for each player in Standard Chess is 30 minutes plus 30 seconds increment from move 1.

Rapid Chess

- All Rapid chess tournaments will be played in a Swiss System of 7 rounds (or Round-Robin system if the number of participants per category is below 8).
- Time control for each player in Rapid Chess: 10 minutes + 5 seconds increment from move 1.



Blitz Chess

- All Blitz chess tournaments will be played in a Swiss System of 9 rounds (or Round-Robin system if the number of participants per category is below 8).
- Time control for each player in Rapid Chess: 5 minutes + 3 seconds increment from move 1.

The scoring system will be: 1 point for victory, $\frac{1}{2}$ point for a draw, and 0 for a loss. The final standings will be decided based on the total number of points gained by each participant.

3. Technical Details

3.1. Technical Delegate

The Technical Delegate will be Mr. Bogdan Garbea. Mr. Garbea will oversee the implementation of all sport-specific rules and requirements at the Games.

4. Equipment & Uniform

4.1. Equipment

FIDE approved competition chess sets, clocks, and other materials will be provided for competition matches.

4.2. Uniform

Participants must wear clothing appropriate to the cultural values of the United Arab Emirates. This means that wearing sleeveless tops and tank tops, and shorts and skirts above the knee, will not be permitted.

Uniforms must be free of any political messages, personal slogans, or imagery that could be deemed inappropriate or disruptive to the spirit of the competition.

5. Awarding

5.1. Medals

The top 3 athletes will be awarded the gold medal, silver medal and bronze medal respectively.

5.2. Ceremonies

- In OMGAD2026, athletes are individuals and represent themselves. National flags and anthems will not be included in medal ceremonies.
- The medal ceremony will be held after each final.
- The medal ceremony will be conducted in Arabic and English.

6. Protests and Appeals

6.1. Protests

- Competition-related disputes and protests shall be handled according to rules and related regulations of the international association of the sport. If there are no rules regarding such disputes and protests in place, the competitor may first make verbal protest and submit written protest to OMGAD within 30 minutes after the end of a contest.
- No protest can be lodged by any team members or staff against a judging (scoring) decision during the competition period.

6.2. Appeals

- Based on the principle of trust, the Organizer will not take the initiative to review the grade of athletes upon registration. Matters regarding athlete qualifications and grades should be submitted to the Organizer with relevant supporting materials before the Games or when the fact occurs. The complaint will be handled in accordance with the rules and relevant regulations of international sports federations and relevant regulations.
- Applications that are not submitted within the stipulated time or with incomplete materials will not be accepted.

7. Doping Control

7.1. Regulations

- Doping Control should be conducted in accordance with WADA World Anti-Doping Code (<https://www.wada-ama.org/en>) and International Masters Games Association (IMGA) Anti-Doping Rules (<https://imga.ch/masterssports/anti-doping>).
- Participants are deemed to have agreed to be subject to doping control procedures in accordance with the International Masters Games Association Anti-Doping Rules upon entry to the competition. Participants must obey antidoping rules and conduct themselves in a considerate manner.

8. Updates

The final version of the competition guide will be released by December 15th. Important additional information, including the sports schedule, will be available at that time. In the meantime, please address all inquiries to: sports@omgad2026.ae