REGULATIONS

International Chess Festival

"Shamakhi Open - 2026"

1. Objectives

1.1. Promotion and development of chess in Azerbaijan;
1.2. Increasing the playing experience and international rating of chess players, fulfilling international norms;
1.3. Development of Azerbaijani children's chess;

2. Organizers

2.1. Azerbaijan Chess Federation
2.2. Vugar Gashimov Chess Foundation

3. Playing venue, date

3.1. Festival will be held in Shamakhi in "Educational Center".
3.2. Festival will be held on 15 july (arrival) - 22 july (departure) 2026.

4. Festival rules

4.1. The festival is organized in 3 groups – A (Standard), B (Rapid) and C (Blitz).
4.2. The competitions are held according to the FIDE rules of the game.
4.3. Chess players with FIDE IDs can participate in groups A, B, C.
4.4. The competition in groups A, C is held in 9 rounds according to the Swiss system.
4.5. The competition in group B is held in 7 rounds according to the Swiss system.
4.6. The time control for Group A has been changed effective 13 July. The previous time control of 45 minutes + 30 seconds per move has been cancelled. The new time control is 60 minutes for the entire game, with a 30-second increment added from the first move (60 minutes + 30 seconds per move).
4.7. The game control time in group B - (Rapid) is 10 minutes until the end of the game, with 3 seconds added to each move from the first move (10 minutes + 3 seconds / each move).
4.8. The game control time in group C - (Blitz) is 3 minutes until the end of the game, with 2 seconds added to each move from the first move (3 minutes + 2 seconds / each move).
4.9. The delay time for the round in groups A is 15 minutes.
4.10. In case of equal points, the winning odds are determined in the following order:

In group A, B, C
1. Direct encounter (the results of the players in the same point group)
2. Buchholts (cut 1)
3. Buchholts
4. Number of victories

4.11. The pairings of the tournaments will be done using the "Swiss-Manager" program. The results and pairings will be published daily on the competition website (shamakhiopen.chess.az) and www.chess-results.com.

4.12. The schedule of competitions is as follows:

Date	Event	Time
15 july 2026	Arrival	From 14:00
16 july 2026	Opening ceremony	14:00
	1st round	15:00
17 july 2026	2nd round	11:00
	3rd round	16:00
18 july 2026	4th round	11:00
	Rapid	16:00
19 july 2026	5th round	11:00
	Blitz	16:00
20 july 2026	6th round	11:00
	7th round	16:00
21 july 2026	8th round	11:00
	9th round	16:00
	Closing ceremony	19:00
22 july 2026	Departure	

5. Registration and entry fee

5.1. Registration is open from the date of the festival announcement until July 15.

5.2. Registration is done online only: shamakhiopen.chess.az

5.3. The standard entry fee for participation in group A is 100 AZN.

- If payment will be done till July 10 – 60 AZN
- If payment will be done till July 14 – 80 AZN

5.4. The standard entry fee for participation in group B (rapid) is 20 AZN.

5.5. The standard entry fee for participation in group C (blitz) is 20 AZN.

5.6. The following are free from entry fees in Group A:

a) Grandmasters (men and women)
b) International Masters (men and women)
c) Female chess players with an international rating above 2200
d) Chess players with an international rating above 2400

6. Prizes

6.1. The total prize fund is **23.300** AZN.

6.2. The prize fund is provided by the Azerbaijan Chess Federation.

6.3. For group A prize is **21.000** AZN, for group B is **1150** AZN, for group C is **1150** AZN.

6.4. Prizes are determined according to the following tables:

Place	Group A		
1	5.000 AZN	Best woman	1st place - 500 AZN 2nd place - 300 AZN 3rd place - 200 AZN
2	3.500 AZN	Not rated - 1500	1st place - 300 AZN 2nd place - 200 AZN 3rd place - 100 AZN
3	2.500 AZN	1501 - 1600	1st place - 300 AZN 2nd place - 200 AZN 3rd place - 100 AZN
4	1.500 AZN	1601 - 1700	1st place - 300 AZN 2nd place - 200 AZN 3rd place - 100 AZN
5	1000 AZN	1701 - 1800	1st place - 300 AZN 2nd place - 200 AZN 3rd place - 100 AZN
6	900 AZN	1801 - 1900	1st place - 300 AZN 2nd place - 200 AZN 3rd place - 100 AZN
7	800 AZN		
8	700 AZN		
9	600 AZN		
10	500 AZN		

Group B (Rapid)	Group C (Blitz)
I place – 300 AZN	I place – 300 AZN
II place – 200 AZN	II place – 200 AZN
III place – 150 AZN	III place – 150 AZN
IV place – 100 AZN	IV place – 100 AZN
V place – 100 AZN	V place – 100 AZN
ELO 1401-1600 – 100 AZN	ELO 1401-1600 – 100 AZN
ELO 1601-1800 – 100 AZN	ELO 1601-1800 – 100 AZN
ELO 1801-2000 – 100 AZN	ELO 1801-2000 – 100 AZN

6.5. The amount of the prize fund is exempt from all types of taxes applied in the Republic of Azerbaijan.
6.6. If a participant takes several places eligible for a prize, he can only receive 1 prize (the highest one).
6.7. If two or more chess players score the same number of points, the prize is not divided, and the additional prize is awarded to the participant with the higher score.

7. Accommodation

7.1. Hotel expenses for participants are proposed as per the table below:

Hotel	Double room		Single room	
	With breakfast	Full board	With breakfast	Full board
Shamakhi Educational Center	60 AZN	70 AZN	85 AZN	100 AZN
	(per 1 person)	(per 1 person)		

- If you have any additional questions regarding accommodation, you can contact the organizer.

8. Appeal

8.1. Objections against the decisions of the Chief Arbiter may be submitted to the Appeals Commission. The members of the Appeals Commission are selected and appointed by the Organizing Committee.
8.2. Protests can be submitted only in writing and upon payment of the appropriate fee - 200 (two hundred) AZN within 1 (one) hour after the end of the game.

9. Media

9.1. Only accredited media representatives are allowed to take photographs during the festival.
9.2. Photography using flash is only allowed during the first 5 (five) minutes after the start of the rounds.

10. Viza

10.1. E-visas can be easily obtained on the following link: https://evisa.gov.az/az/
10.2. List on eligibale e-visa countries is on https://evisa.gov.az/az/countries
10.3. Non-eligibale countries should contact Azerbaijan Embassy in the respective country.
10.4. In case of need the Organizing Committee provides invitation letter in obtaining an entry visa.

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