

COMPETITION REGULATIONS

XXI CHESS FESTIVAL

CENTRAL AMERICAN AND CARIBBEAN YOUTH, COSTA RICA 2026.



ORGANIZERS



CONFEDERACIÓN
DE AJEDREZ DE
AMÉRICA



CONTACTS:

torneos_internacionales_costarica
@fcacostarica.com



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XXI CENTRAL AMERICAN AND CARIBBEAN YOUTH CHESS FESTIVAL, COSTA RICA 2026.

I. INVITATION

Dear Central American and Caribbean Federations:

The Costa Rican Chess Federation (FCA), in coordination with the Chess Confederation for the Americas (CCA), is pleased to invite you to the XXI edition of the Central American and Caribbean Youth Chess Festival, which will take place in Costa Rica, from November 1st to 8th, 2026.

This new edition will continue the work that, year after year, has positioned the festival as the main meeting point for youth chess prospects in our region. It will be a space for high-level competition, but also for interaction among players, coaches, and officials from all participating countries.

The championship will be held at the Gimnasio Nacional (National Gymnasium), located within the Metropolitan Park La Sabana, also known as the great green lung of San José. It is a large, open space where sports areas blend with quieter corners for picnics, reading, or contemplating the landscape, with extensive grassy areas, tree-lined paths, and small lakes where people walk, run, cycle, or simply sit to chat and enjoy the fresh air. It is a place where families, athletes, and visitors coexist, reflecting Costa Rica's character: nature, outdoor living, and coexistence in a safe and pleasant environment, just minutes from the city center.

The FCA is working on the sporting, logistical, and arbitral organization to ensure an orderly, transparent event in accordance with current FIDE and CCA regulations, as well as the expectations of the region's federations.

It will be an honor for Costa Rica to receive you and to have the participation of your young talents in this XXI edition of the Festival.



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II. GENERAL CONDITIONS

The event will be conducted in accordance with FIDE Laws and Regulations ([FIDE Handbook](#)), the [CCA Financial Regulations](#) for events, and the specific regulations for the "XXI Central American and Caribbean Youth Chess Festival, Costa Rica 2026."

The organization of the event will be carried out by the Costa Rican Chess Federation (FCA) with the support of the Chess Confederation of the Americas (CCA).

The official email for the event is:

torneos_internacionales_costarica@fcacostarica.com

The tournament's WhatsApp group for general information is the following one: [Whatsapp](#).

III. CATEGORIES

The categories U8, U10, U12, U14, U16, and U18 will be played in both Open and Girls sections, for a total of 12 categories. Open and Girls sections within a category may be merged if necessary.

Categories are determined by date of birth as follows:

Category U8 Open and Girls: Born on or after January 1, 2018.

Category U10 Open and Girls: Born on or after January 1, 2016.

Category U12 Open and Girls: Born on or after January 1, 2014.

Category U14 Open and Girls: Born on or after January 1, 2012.

Category U16 Open and Girls: Born on or after January 1, 2010.

Category U18 Open and Girls: Born on or after January 1, 2008.



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IV. PARTICIPANTS

Each Central American and Caribbean federation may register one (1) official player in each age category and division, as well as one (1) federation delegate. For these official participants, the Organizing Committee will subsidize 60% of the accommodation and meal costs based on double occupancy at either the Costa Rica Tennis Club Hotel or the Irazú Hotel & Studios.

Players who won gold in the different categories of the 20th Central American and Caribbean Youth Festival, held in Puerto Rico in 2025, will also be considered official players.

The Costa Rican Chess Federation, in its effort to promote the inclusive participation of blind and deaf individuals in chess, will grant each participating federation the benefit of **100% lodging and food for one (1) person** with either of these conditions. This athlete must be included as an official player, duly accredited as a member of their delegation, and must pay the corresponding registration fees.

Similarly, each federation may register as many unofficial players and companions as it wishes; they must cover their full costs for registration, transfers, accommodation, and meals.

Each participant, player and the delegate from each country must fill out the [following form](#). The ability to complete this form will close on the same day that registrations close according to the type of representation.

The registration of all members of each delegation (players, delegates, coaches, and companions) will be the responsibility of their respective federation and the process will be complete upon properly filling out the previous form, including all members of the delegation.

No player may be registered without the approval of their own federation or if they do not belong to a Central American and Caribbean Federation.

Any exceptional situation related to player participation will be resolved by the CCA, in accordance with current regulations.





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V. DEADLINES

Registration for official players and delegates must be completed no later than September 1st by a responsible person from each federation, completing the form included in these regulations. All registrations made after this date will be considered unofficial players.

For registrations of unofficial players and companions, registrations will be accepted until midnight on September 15th, upon depositing the corresponding amounts and filling out the form for unofficial players. After that date, the organization reserves the right to accept registrations.

The payment deadlines are the same as the registration deadlines (September 1st for official players and delegates, and September 15th for unofficial players and companions), as the respective registration forms will require attaching the proof of payment.

VI. VENUE

The playing venue will be the Gimnasio Nacional de Costa Rica (National Gymnasium), located in the Metropolitan Park La Sabana.

VII. COSTS

Official players and 1 delegate per country must cover 40% of the lodging (double occupancy) and meal costs during the event.

Blind or deaf players only need to pay the corresponding registration fees and, if required, transportation costs.

Unofficial players (without exception) must cover their own lodging, meals, registration, and other fees according to the CCA financial regulations.

Companions, family members, and coaches must also cover accreditation, lodging, and meal costs without exception.





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The costs per item are detailed below:

A. Registration, Accreditation, and Transportation.

Every official and unofficial player must pay the organization the following amounts for registration and accreditation for the classical time control tournament:

- Official players: One hundred forty US dollars (\$140 USD).
- Unofficial players: One hundred sixty US dollars (\$160 USD).
- National players: One hundred US dollars (\$100 USD). This fee includes official accreditation.

For the Rapid and Blitz tournaments, the registration fee is \$25 USD per tournament or \$40 USD if registering for both.

Companions, delegates, and coaches must pay the sum of twenty dollars (\$20.00 USD) for accreditation.

Optionally, transportation to/from the airport will be available at a cost of fifty dollars (\$50.00 USD) per person.

B. Lodging and Meals

All players must make their hotel reservation **through the tournament organization**. Direct reservations with the official hotels or other hotels must be communicated to the organization and will incur a penalty of **\$200.00 USD** per person.

The organization offers different packages including lodging for 7 nights from November 1st (check-in 3:00 p.m.) to November 8th (check-out 11:00 a.m. or 12:00 noon) and meals from dinner on the 1st to breakfast on November 8th.

For lodging, various options are offered in hotels near the playing hall. Room availability in each hotel is limited, so assignments will be made in the order registrations are received.



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Costs per hotel are detailed below:

| Hotel / Occupancy | Double | Triple | Quadruple |
|----------------------------|--------|--------|-----------|
| Costa Rica Tennis Club | 750 | 700 | 700 |
| KC Hotel | 825 | 775 | 750 |
| Irazú Hotel and Studios * | 800 | 750 | 700 |
| Holiday Inn, Plaza Irazú * | 850 | 775 | 725 |
| Hotel Parque del Lago | 850 | 775 | 725 |
| Rincón del Valle * | 875 | 825 | 775 |
| Wyndham * | 1000 | 875 | 800 |

* In these hotels, children under 12 accompanied by at least 2 people over 12 pay \$500 USD (only the child).

These fees are per person.

Lunch and dinner will be served at the Gimnasio Nacional, next to the playing area. The hotels available are those mentioned here, but depending on demand, others of similar characteristics and prices may be included. Breakfast will be served at each hotel, and transfer service (hotel-venue-hotel) will be provided for people staying in the more distant hotels, which are approximately 4 kilometers away.

VIII. PAYMENTS

Payments can be made in the following ways:

| | |
|---------------------|-------------------------------|
| CURRENCY: | COLONS |
| BAC SAN JOSÉ | CR45010200009036947191 |
| BANCO DE COSTA RICA | CR32015201001047586091 |
| SINPE MÓVIL | 7179-4947 |

| | |
|------------------|--|
| CURRENCY: | DOLARS |
| BAC SAN JOSÉ: | CR83010200009255560451 |
| PAYPAL: | tesoreria@fcacostarica.com |

If paying via PayPal, it will be the depositor's responsibility to cover the 7% bank commission fee.



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| INTERNATIONAL | DOLARS |
|----------------------|---|
| BENEFICIARY NAME | FEDERACION CENTRAL DE AJEDREZ |
| ACCOUNT NUMBER | CR83010200009255560451 |
| ADDRESS | ESTADIO NACIONAL DE COSTA RICA S 1036, SAN JOSE, COSTA RICA |
| BANK NAME | BAC SAN JOSE (FORMELY BANCO SAN JOSE, S. A.) |
| SWIFT CODE | BSNJCRSJ |
| BANK ADDRESS | CALLE 0, AVENIDA 3 Y 5, SAN JOSÉ, COSTA RICA |

INTERMEDIARY BANK:

| | |
|------------|--|
| BANK NAME | JP MORGAN CHASE BANK |
| SWIFT CODE | CHASUS33 |
| ABA | 21000021 |
| ADDRESS | 4 NEW YORK PLAZA FLOOR 15 NEW YORK, NY |

IX. SPECIFIC TOURNAMENT REGULATIONS

1) SYSTEM AND TIME CONTROL

The tournament will be played using the Swiss system over nine (9) rounds and will be managed using Swiss Manager software. All games will be played with electronic clocks that allow a time increment.

The time control for all categories will be ninety (90) minutes, with a thirty (30) second increment per move from the start.

The player list and pairings will be published on the [Chess-results.com](https://chess-results.com) page.

If ten (10) or fewer players register in a category, the playing system will be Round Robin; if necessary, the sections of that category may be merged.

2) TIE-BREAK SYSTEM

For tournaments played with the Swiss System, in case of a tie in points, the following criteria will be used, in strict order:

- 1) Buchholz Cut 1
- 2) Buchholz
- 3) Sonneborn-Berger



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- 4) Cumulative system (sum of progressive points)
- 5) Direct encounter
- 6) Greater number of wins (forfeits will be counted)

If a tournament is played using the Round Robin system, the tie-break criteria to be used are the following, in strict order:

- 1) Direct Encounter
- 2) Greater number of wins (forfeits will be counted)
- 3) Sonneborn-Berger
- 4) Koya system
- 5) Extended Koya system

3) TIME FORFEIT

The permitted delay time will be thirty (30) minutes from the start of the round. If a player has not appeared after this time, the game will be lost, and the player will be eliminated from the rest of the tournament, unless the player or a representative informs the organization of their intention to continue before the pairing of the next round.

4) FAIR PLAY

Fair Play measures will be applied according to [FIDE Anti-Cheating Guidelines](#). With the sole exception of the scoresheet recording equipment, players and captains are prohibited from having any electronic device in the playing venue that has not been specifically approved by the arbiter. Companions or spectators are prohibited from using electronic devices in the playing venue, except for taking photographs when explicitly approved by the arbiter.

5) IMAGE RIGHTS

Every player, parent, guardian, or legal tutor, upon registering for the tournament, gives consent and authorization to the FCA and CCA to use the image of the player and their companions in any type of publication or media.





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6) SCHEDULE

Arrival and Accreditation Day: November 1, 2026, at 3:00 p.m., at the respective hotels in San José, Costa Rica.

The technical meeting will be held virtually through a link that will be provided to participants in due course.

| Activity | Date | Time |
|------------------------------------|------------|------------|
| Arrival & Accreditation | 01/11/2026 | 3:00 p.m. |
| Technical Meeting (Virtual) | 01/11/2026 | 7:00 p.m. |
| Opening Ceremony | 02/11/2026 | 9:00 a.m. |
| Round 1 | 02/11/2026 | 9:30 a.m. |
| Round 2 | 02/11/2026 | 3:30 p.m. |
| Round 3 | 03/11/2026 | 9:00 a.m. |
| Rapid Tournament | 03/11/2026 | 3:00 p.m. |
| Round 4 | 04/11/2026 | 9:00 a.m. |
| Round 5 | 04/11/2026 | 3:00 p.m. |
| Round 6 | 05/11/2026 | 9:00 a.m. |
| Blitz Tournament | 05/11/2026 | 3:00 p.m. |
| Round 7 | 06/11/2026 | 9:00 a.m. |
| Round 8 | 06/11/2026 | 3:00 p.m. |
| Round 9 | 07/11/2026 | 9:00 a.m. |
| Closing Ceremony | 07/11/2026 | 5:00 p.m. |
| Departure | 08/11/2026 | 11:00 a.m. |





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7) PRIZES

The winner of each category of the "XXI Central American and Caribbean Youth Chess Festival 2026" will receive the title of Champion and the corresponding prizes established below.

The top five (05) places in each category (Open and Girls) will be awarded as follows:

1st Place: Trophy

2nd Place: Trophy

3rd Place: Trophy

4th & 5th Place: Medal

7.1 TITLES AND NORMS

Titles and Norms will be awarded according to current FIDE Regulations ([handbook B012024](#) and [handbook B01 Direct Titles 2024](#)) as follows:

IM/WIM:

U18 Gold = Direct Title. Tie for first place (max 3 players) = Norm.

U16 Gold = Norm.

FM/WFM:

U18 Silver and Bronze = Direct Title.

U16 Tied for first place (max 3 players) = Direct Title.

U14 Gold = Direct Title.

U12 Gold = Direct Title.

CM/WCM:

U16 Silver and Bronze = Direct Title.

U14 Silver and Bronze = Direct Title.

U12 Silver and Bronze = Direct Title.

U10 Gold, Silver, and Bronze = Direct Title.

U8 Gold, Silver, and Bronze = Direct Title.

It is important to note that the awarding of titles will be in accordance with the corresponding regulations issued by the World Chess Federation (FIDE).





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8) APPEALS

Decisions of the Chief Arbiter may be appealed to an Appeals Committee, which will be chaired by the Continental President (or a person he/she designates). It will also consist of three full members and two substitutes from different countries, chosen during the technical meeting. To file an appeal, a cash deposit of one hundred United States dollars (USD \$100.00) must be made, which will be refunded only if the ruling is favorable to the appellant. Any appeal must be submitted in writing (with relevant evidence, signed by the respective delegate) no later than one hour after the end of the round from which the appeal arises and must be resolved by the Appeals Committee before the start of the next round. Its decisions are final.

X. TOURNAMENT AUTHORITIES

A. HONORARY COMMITTEE

President of the Chess Confederation of the Americas: **José Carillo Pujol**

President of the Costa Rican Chess Federation: **Luis Quirós Rojas**

B. ORGANIZING COMMITTEE

Carolina Muñoz
Chief Arbiter

Vivian Víquez Miranda
Director

Sergio Ramos Torres
Deputy Director

