

Candidates 2024

89th Malta Chess Championship (Open)

Tournament regulations (v2 - 2024.6.20)

- Eligibility: players meeting all criteria per MCF Statute to play in the national championship and to play in the Candidates – these are summarised at the end of this document.
- Former members seeking readmission must apply for membership and settle the 2024 subscription before the end of the registration period - no new memberships will be accepted at the tournament.
- Non-qualifiers from the Preliminaries who are interested in participating in the Candidates should submit a conditional application during the normal registration period.
- Registration shall be by email to info+candidates2024@chessmalta.com by 14 July 2024 12:00 noon local time. Due to logistical reasons, the number of entries is capped at the first 64 to register. Late entries shall be accepted up to when the pairings for the third round are published. By registering to participate in this tournament, players shall be agreeing to this protocol in its entirety.
- Pairing System: 7 rounds, FIDE Swiss Rules - FIDE (Dutch) System (effective till 30 June 2025), subject to a minimum of 13 entries. Software used: Swiss-Manager.
- Scheduled play: We 17, Sa 20, Su 21, We 24, Sat 27, Su 28, and We 31 July 2023, with all games starting at 18:00 local time.
- The official results for each round will be published on the official website within one hour from the end of the last game to finish, except in the case of an appeal in which case the results will be published once the appeal is decided.
- The official pairings for each round will be published on the official website by **09:00** local time of the day immediately preceding the scheduled day of the round, except for rounds 3 and 6 scheduled on Sundays for which pairings will be published by 09:30 local time of the day of the round. Where possible the pairings will be published earlier. However, the pairings for the first round will remain provisional and subject to change up until the start of that round. Any player who wishes to not be paired for the first round must inform the arbiter before the provisional pairings are published.
- Venue: Malta Chess Federation premises at Skola Medja Prof. Edward de Bono, Kullegġ San Injazju, Tal-Handaq, Ħal Qormi, Malta. 35° 52' 13.7568" N 14° 28' 17.6664" E
<https://maps.app.goo.gl/wmuLHxd8rxCsFDEt9>

- Time control: 90 minutes for the first 40 moves followed by 15 minutes for the rest of the game with an addition of 30 seconds per move starting from move one (**40/90m+30s:G/15m+30s**).
- Clocks: DGT 3000 with seconds showing from move 1 and **no move-counter** (the clock will always add 15 minutes to both players when the first player reaches 00:00 and “flags”, irrespective of the number of moves played - claims to be based on the players’ scoresheets).
- All games will be internationally rated with FIDE. FIDE’s Laws of Chess, General Regulations for Competitions, Tie-Break Regulations, and Ethics & Disciplinary Code in effect as of 15 July 2024 shall all apply. The Malta Chess Federation’s Code of Ethics shall also apply.
- Default time: **60 minutes**. A player who is absent without notifying the arbiter shall be considered as withdrawn (to have withdrawn), unless the absence is explained, with acceptable reasons, before the next pairing is published.
- For the final tournament standings, participants shall be ranked in the order specified by the respective tie-break below, starting from the first specified tie-break and moving to the next in the list whenever a persisting tie cannot be broken. When the tie-break list is exhausted, any remaining tie should be broken by the drawing of lots.

The tiebreaks shall be defined and applied in accordance with FIDE’s Tie-Break Regulations effective from 1 April 2024. **ATTENTION: There have been several significant changes from the previously effective regulations.**

- a. Game points (win = 1 / draw = ½ / loss = 0)
- b. Direct Encounter (**DE**)
- c. Fore Buchholz Cut-1 (**FBC**)
- d. Direct Encounter (**DE**), applied again to the remaining set of tied participants after having applied the previous tiebreaks.
- e. Average Perfect [Tournament] Performance of Opponents (**APPO**) using the 1 July 2024 FIDE standard rating. Players who never had a FIDE standard rating and used to have a national rating shall be deemed to have a rating equal to their rating in the final national active or inactive rating lists (dated 1 January 2014). Unrated players without a prior national rating shall be treated as having a rating of 1700.
- f. Direct Encounter (**DE**), applied again to the remaining set of tied participants after having applied the previous tiebreaks.
- g. Number of Games Played with Black (**BPG**)
- h. Direct Encounter (**DE**), applied again to the remaining set of tied participants after having applied the previous tiebreaks.

- Qualification to Finals:
 - a. The four highest ranked participants of the Candidates shall qualify for the Championship Finals tournament, which will have six participants.
 - b. Should either of (or both) the winner and runner-up of the previous Championship choose to participate in the Candidates, the number of qualifiers will be increased by one (or if both participate: two) ranked participants to fulfil the complement of six players in the Final phase.
 - c. Ranking shall be in accordance with the tiebreaks.
 - d. Reserve qualifiers shall be in accordance with the rest of the ranking.
- There is no entrance fee.
- Guaranteed cash prizes: 1st €100, 2nd €75, 3rd €50. Prize-monies are split equally between tied players. Trophies for Top 3, in accordance with tiebreaks.
- Electronic devices:
 - a. During a game, a player is forbidden to have any electronic device not specifically approved by the arbiter in the playing venue. Nevertheless, such devices may be stored in a player's bag, provided the device is completely switched off. This bag must be placed as agreed with the arbiter. Both players are forbidden to use this bag without permission of the arbiter.
 - b. If it is evident that a player has such a device on their person in the playing venue, the player shall lose the game. The opponent shall win.
 - c. The use of electronic devices is not permitted in the playing area except by the arbiters. This includes spectators and accompanying persons, who shall only be permitted to use their phones in the first 5 minutes to take photos.
 - d. Special arrangements may be made for genuine cases such as doctors on-call.
- If a player has to stop taking part or needs to miss a certain round, they shall inform the arbiter so they are not paired (zero-point bye).
- Off-schedule play is highly discouraged. Nevertheless:
 - a. Players who cannot play at a specific scheduled time and are willing to reschedule the game are to inform the arbiter of this and their availability, ahead of time and not later than the start of the previous round.
 - b. Rescheduled games are to be played by the start of the next round. The last round may only be played ahead of schedule. Preferred start times for rescheduled games are: (1) delayed or anticipated start of up to 1 hour (17:00-19:00); (2) weekends in the morning (09:00-10:00); (3) other weekdays in the evening (18:00-19:00).

- c. Prior to the pairings for the round being published, the arbiter shall ask their expected opponent whether they are willing to reschedule the game in accordance with the provided availability. If the expected opponent is not willing to reschedule the game or a mutually agreed time and place is not found, the player will not be paired for the round and they will receive no points for the missed round. The pairings will be performed excluding the player, and consequently the expected opponent will not win by forfeit but will be paired with another player.
- d. If the expected opponent is willing to reschedule the game and a mutually agreed rescheduled time and place is found, any games not yet played and finished by the scheduled publishing time for the pairings will be treated as if adjourned for pairing purposes. The game may be further rescheduled within the stipulated time frames by mutual agreement; however, if a rescheduled game is not played within the stipulated time frames, it will be scored as a forfeit for both players (-:-). Players rescheduling games agree to the possibility of alternative means of arbitration.
- Please keep the club clean. Do not use the paper bins inside the club; there are waste bins just outside the club.
 - All participants are to provide valid email and phone contact details at registration.
 - Chief Arbiter: IA Noel Grima
 - Appeals Committee: selected before the first round
 - Official tournament website at: <https://chess-results.com/Tnr958113.aspx>
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Summary of eligibility criteria

- Only persons who are
 - a. **members** of the Malta Chess Federation,
 - b. registered and licensed as players with FIDE under the **Maltese flag**,
 - c. are **Maltese citizens** (as defined in Cap. 188 of Maltese law) or who as at 1 January 2024 had been ordinarily **resident** in Malta for a period of at least **six years** in the preceding eight calendar years

can participate in the Open National chess championships of Malta.

- The Candidates is the second phase of the Open National Championship, and this competition shall be open to all members of the Malta Chess Federation who either:
 - a. had a rating equal to or exceeding 1700 on the registration date of the Preliminaries Tournament (1 February 2024 standard rating list); or
 - b. has a rating equal to or exceeding 1800 on the registration date of the Candidates (1 July 2024 standard rating list); or
 - c. qualified to the Candidates from the Preliminaries Tournament (Top 10); or
 - d. placed as winner or runner-up at the 2023 Championship Finals tournament.
 - A player's rating shall be that published in the latest standard FIDE Rating List. A player who never had a FIDE rating and used to have a national rating shall be deemed to have a rating equal to their rating in the final national active or inactive rating lists (dated 1 January 2014) until they receive their first international rating.
 - Should any of the qualifiers from the Preliminaries Tournament fail to register to participate in the Candidates, then the next highest ranked participant from the Preliminaries Tournament who so accepts shall participate in the Candidates in their stead.
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