REGULATIONS

International Chess Festival

"Ganja Open - 2025"

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. Preparation of young chess players for European and world championships;
1.4. Fulfillment of the international norms by Azerbaijani arbiters.

2. Organizers

2.1. Azerbaijan Chess Federation;
2.2. Ganja city Executive Authority.

3. Playing venue, date

3.1. Festival will be held in Ganja city Drama Theater.
3.2. Festival will be held on 10 (arrival) - 17 november (last round and closing) 2025.

4. Festival rules

4.1. Festival includes "Chess Tour Azerbaijan" (chess.az).
4.2. Tournaments are organized within the festival in 2 groups (A, B) and Rapid, Blitz
4.3. The tournaments are held according to FIDE rules of the game.
4.4. The requirements for the groups are as follows:
4.4.1. Group A is open to chess players rated 2000 and above (Organizer is allowed to accept players with lower rating - max. 10 players).
4.4.2. Group B is open to chess players rated 1999 and below.
4.5. Each of the two groups is held according to the Swiss system, consisting of 9 rounds.
4.6. In group A the control time is 90 minutes until the end of the game, with 30 seconds added for each move from the first move (90 minutes + 30 seconds/each move).
4.7. In group B the control time is 60 minutes until the end of the game, with 30 seconds added for each move from the first move (60 minutes + 30 seconds/each move).
4.8. Rapid will be held in 10+5 time control, consisting of 7 rounds, and Blitz will be held in 3+2 time control, consisting of 9 rounds.
4.9. Default time is 15 minutes in categories A and B.
4.10. In cases if two or more players score the same number of points – the following criteria shall be decisive for the tie-break:

Group A	Group B	Rapid /Blitz
1. Direct encounter (81)	1. Direct encounter (81)	1. Direct encounter (81)
2. Rating performance (60)	2. Greater number of victories	2. Greater number of victories
3. Cut Buchholz (-1,-1)	3. Cut Buchholz (-1,-1)	3. Cut Buchholz (-1,-1)
4. Cut Buchholz (-2,-2)	4. Cut Buchholz (-2,-2)	4. Cut Buchholz (-2,-2)

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 www.chess-results.com.

4.12. The schedule of festival is as follows:

Date	Event	Time	
10 November 2025	Arrival	During the day	
	Confirmation of reg.	10:00-20:00	
11 November 2025	Opening ceremony	14:30	
11 November 2025	Round 1	Group A 15:00	Group B 15:00
12 November 2025	Round 2	Group A 10:00	Group B 10:00
12 November 2025	Round 3	Group A 16:00	Group B 16:00
13 November 2025	Round 4	Group A 10:00	Group B 10:00
14 November 2025	Round 5	Group A 10:00	Group B 10:00
14 November 2025	Round 6	Group A 16:00	Group B 16:00
15 November 2025	Round 7	Group A 10:00	Group B 10:00
15 November 2025	Rapid (1-7 rounds)	16:00	
16 November 2025	Round 8	Group A 10:00	Group B 10:00
16 November 2025	Blitz (1-9 rounds)	16:00	
17 November 2025	Round 9	Group A 10:00	Group B 10:00
	Closing ceremony	16:00	

5. Registration and entry fee

5.1. Registration deadline is 05 November 2025

5.2. Registration is done online only: [(ganjaopen2025.chess.az/registration)]

5.3. The entry fee is determined according to the following table:

Groups	Men		Women	
	2401 <	-	2301 <	-
Group A	2250-2400	50 AZN	2150-2300	40 AZN
	2100-2249	60 AZN	2100-2149	50 AZN
	>2099	70 AZN	>2099	60 AZN
Group B				
	>1999	50 AZN	>1999	40 AZN
	Not rated	70 AZN	Not rated	50 AZN
Rapid/Blitz	20 AZN		20 AZN	

5.4. The following are free entry fees:
   a) Grandmasters (men and women);
   b) International Masters (men and women);
   c) Veterans (60 years and older);
   d) Players with an international rating of 2400 for men and 2300 for women.

6. Prizes

6.1. Total prize fund is 41.200 AZN (~24.235 USD).

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

Group A (31.450 AZN)			**Group B** (6.710 AZN)			**Rapid/Blitz** (1.520/1.520 AZN)	
S/n	Place	Prize	Place		Prize	Place	Prize
1	1	10000	1		1100	1	400
2	2	6500	2		900	2	300
3	3	4000	3		700	3	250
4	4	3000	4		600	4	200
5	5	2000	5		500	5	150
6	6	1200	6		400		
7	7	1000	7		350	Women	
8	8	700	8		270	1	100
9	9	450	9		250	2	70
10	10	300	10		200	3	50
11	Women-1	700	U-12 G-12	I	120		
12	Women-2	450		II	100		
13	Women-3	250		III	80		
14	U16-1	250	U-10 G-10	I	100		
15	G16-1	250		II	80		
16	Best local player	200		III	60		
17	ELO >2200	200	U-8 G-8	I	80		
18				II	60		
19				III	40		

6.3. The amount of the prize fund is exempt from all types of taxes applied in the Republic of Azerbaijan.

6.4. The winner of both groups (A, B) will be awarded a trophy.

6.5. In group B, boys and girls under 8, 10, and 12 years old will be awarded with prize money (boys and girls separately), diplomas, and medals according to the table above.

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. The first male chess players with ELO of over 2500 and female chess players with ELO of over 2300 (10 chess players in total) who apply will be accommodated by the organizers with full board accommodation.

7.2. Hotel costs for other participants are proposed as in the following table (room prices are indicated) in AZN:

Hotel	Double room		Single room	
	With breakfast	Full board	With breakfast	Full board
Premium Hotel **** (2.6 km)	110	170	90	120
"Daşlı Qala" Hotel **** (1.0 km)	90	140	70	110
"Gəncə" Hotel **** (1.2 km)	60	120	50	80
"Qala" Hostel (1.2 km)	44	94		

8. Apeal

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 only be made in writing and with the necessary fee of 100 (one 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. Visa

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 assistance (with invitation letter) in obtaining an entry visa.

Contact:

E-mail: ganjaopen@chess.az
Web: ganjaopen2025.chess.az
Mob/Wp: +994 55 681 66 88 (NA Mural Mammadov)
Festival Director: FM Asif Hasanov