REGULATIONS

International Chess Festival

"Ganja Open - 2026"

1. Objectives

1.1. Promotion and development of chess in the Republic of Azerbaijan;
1.2. Improvement of players' tournament experience and international ratings, as well as fulfillment of international norms;
1.3. Preparation of young chess players for European and World Championships;
1.4. Fulfillment of international norms by Azerbaijani arbiters

2. Organizers

2.1. Ministry of Youth and Sports of the Republic of Azerbaijan;
2.2. Azerbaijan Chess Federation;

3. Playing venue, date

3.1. Festival will be held in Ganja city Ganja Sports Palace.
3.2. Festival will be held on 11 (arrival) - 18 October (last round, closing ceremony) 2026.

4. Festival rules

4.1. Tournaments are organized within the festival in 2 groups (A, B) and Rapid, Blitz
4.2. The tournaments shall be conducted in accordance with the FIDE Laws of Chess.
4.3. The requirements for the groups are as follows:
4.3.1. Group A is open to chess players rated 1900 and above
4.3.2. Group B is open to chess players rated 1899 and below.
4.4. Each of the two groups is held according to the Swiss system, consisting of 9 rounds.
4.5. 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).
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).
Rapid will be held in 10+3 time control, consisting of 7 rounds, and Blitz will be held in 3+2 time control, consisting of 9 rounds.
4.6. Default time is 15 minutes in categories A and B. A player who arrives more than 15 minutes after the scheduled start of the round shall lose the game.
4.7. 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. Buchholts cut (0,-1)	3. Buchholts cut (0,-1)	3. Buchholts cut (0,-1)
4. Median-Buchholz System (-1,-1)	4.Median-Buchholz System (-1,-1)	4.Median-Buchholz System (-1,-1)
5. Buchholts	5. Buchholts	5. Buchholts

4.8. 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.

4.9. The schedule of festival is as follows:

Date	Event	Time	
11 October 2026	Arrival	During the day	
	Confirmation of reg.	10:00-20:00	
12 October 2026	Opening ceremony	15:30	
12 October 2026	Round 1	Group A 16:00	Group B 16:00
13 October 2026	Round 2	Group A 10:00	Group B 10:00
13 October 2026	Round 3	Group A 16:00	Group B 16:00
14 October 2026	Round 4	Group A 10:00	Group B 10:00
14 October 2026	Rapid	16:00	
15 October 2026	Round 5	Group A 10:00	Group B 10:00
15 October 2026	Round 6	Group A 16:00	Group B 16:00
16 October 2026	Round 7	Group A 10:00	Group B 10:00
16 October 2026	Blitz	16:00	
17 October 2026	Round 8	Group A 10:00	Group B 10:00
18 October 2026	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 October 2026

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

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				
	<1899	50 AZN	<1899	40 AZN
	Not rated	70 AZN	Not rated	60 AZN
Rapid/Blitz	All players: 20 AZN		All players: 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 24.810 AZN (~14.595 USD).

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

Group A (16.700 AZN)			**Group B** (5.810 AZN)			**Rapid/Blitz** (1.150 AZN/1.150 AZN)	
S/n	Place	Prize	Place		Prize	Place	Prize
1	1	5100	1		1000	1	350
2	2	3400	2		700	2	250
3	3	2000	3		600	3	200
4	4	1000	4		500	4	150
5	5	800	5		400	5	100
6	6	700	6		300	Women	50
7	7	600	7		250	U-12	50
8	8	500	8		200		
9	9	400	9		170		
10	10	300	10		150		
11	Women-1	500	U-12 G-12	I Diploma and Medal	120		
12	Women-2	300		II Diploma and Medal	100		
13	Women-3	200		III Diploma and Medal	80		
14	U16-1	300	U-10 G-10	I Diploma and Medal	100		
15	G16-1	200		II (Diploma and Medal	80		
16	Best local player	200		III (Diploma and Medal	60		

17	ELO 1900-2099	200	U-8 G-8	I (Diploma and Medal	80		
18				II (Diploma and Medal	60		
19				III (Diploma and Medal	40		
				Best unrated player	100		

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. If a participant takes several places eligible for a prize, he can only receive 1 prize (the highest one).
6.6. 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	**Single room**		**Double room**		Triple room		Family room (4 person)	
	With Breakfast	Full board	With Breakfast	Full board	With Breakfast	Full board	With Breakfast	Full board
Ganja Sports Palace **(0 km)**		75		130		180		220
Ramada Plaza** **(500 m)**	80	150	115	255	165	375		

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. 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.
10.5. According to the migration legislation of the Respublic of Azerbaijan,foreigners staying in the territory of Azerbaijan must be registered at their place of residence within 14 (fourteen) days: https://migration.gov.az/en

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