



## APRIL

As the chess calendar moves into April, attention turns to Cyprus, where the FIDE Candidates Tournament 2026 and the FIDE Women's Candidates Tournament 2026 are now underway at the Cap St Georges Hotel & Resort in Paphos. Sixteen of the world's strongest players are competing for the right to challenge for the World Chess Championship titles, and the early rounds have already produced decisive games, dramatic missed opportunities, and moments that will be studied long after the event concludes. This edition brings you an update on the results, alongside standings and photographs from the playing hall.

Beyond the Candidates, there is much else to report. Registration is now open for the FIDE World Team Rapid and Blitz Chess Championships 2026, heading to Hong Kong in June. FIDE's Year of Chess in Education continues to gather

momentum, with a two-day summit having taken place in Costa Rica in March. Throughout 2026, the FIDE Circuit is also taking shape, and we bring you the latest on standings and upcoming events.

- [FIDE Candidates 2026](#)
- [FIDE Circuit](#)
- [FIDE World Team Rapid & Blitz Championship](#)
- [FIDE Year of Chess in Education](#)
- [News](#)
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## FIDE Candidates 2026



## **The Road to the World Championship Begins in Cyprus**

The most important event in the classical chess calendar is now underway. The FIDE Candidates Tournament 2026 and the FIDE Women's Candidates Tournament 2026 are being held simultaneously at the Cap St Georges Hotel & Resort in Pegeia, Paphos, Cyprus, with play running from 28 March to 16 April 2026. Sixteen of the world's strongest players have gathered with a single objective: to earn the right to challenge for the World Chess Championship titles.

Both tournaments follow the double round-robin format, with each of the eight participants meeting every opponent twice across 14 rounds of classical play. In the FIDE Candidates, the time control is 120 minutes for the first 40 moves, followed by 30 minutes for the remainder of the game, with a 30-second increment per move from move 41 onwards. In the FIDE Women's Candidates, the time control is 90 minutes for the first 40 moves, followed by 30 minutes for the remainder of the game, with a 30-second increment per move from move 1.

The combined prize fund for both events stands at a record €1,000,000, with the Open event carrying a minimum of €700,000 and the Women's event a minimum of €300,000.



The opening rounds have produced a mix of decisive action and hard-fought draws, setting the tone for what promises to be a memorable tournament. Round 1 got off to a sharp start in the Open, with three decisive results from four games: Fabiano Caruana defeated Hikaru Nakamura in a six-hour battle, R Praggnanandhaa outprepared Anish Giri with an unexpected Grand Prix Attack, and Javokhir Sindarov overcame Andrey Esipenko after finding his footing in a difficult position. In the Women's event, all four games ended in draws, though Aleksandra Goryachkina missed a decisive winning sequence against Kateryna Lagno, and Zhu Jiner had Tan Zhongyi under significant pressure before the former World Champion held firm.

Round 2 was a day of draws across both tournaments, though not without drama. In the Open, Esipenko won a pawn against Nakamura but could not convert, while all four games were drawn with fighting chess throughout.

Round 3 saw the standings take shape. In the Open, Caruana converted convincingly against Wei Yi and Sindarov defeated Praggnanandhaa to give both players a half-point lead over the rest of the field. In the Women's event, Bibisara

Assaubayeva defeated Zhu Jiner with an aggressive opening idea, and Lagno overcame Tan Zhongyi in a chaotic game, moving both to joint first.

Though there are now clear frontrunner in both tournaments, we are still in the early days and the tides can surely change. Follow the official FIDE broadcast with expert commentators Grandmasters Peter Svidler and Jan Gustafsson on [YouTube](#) to not miss any of the action!

### [Official Tournament Website](#)



**FIDE CANDIDATES**  
CYPRUS — 2026

**STANDINGS ROUND 3**

rank	players	points
1-2	SINDAROV JAVOKHIR	2.5
1-2	CARUANA FABIANO	2.5
3-4	PRAGGNANANDHAA R	1.5
3-4	BLUEBAUM MATTHIAS	1.5
5-8	WEI YI	1
5-8	GIRI ANISH	1
5-8	NAKAMURA HIKARU	1
5-8	ESIPENKO ANDREY	1

Sponsors: Scheinberg, FIDE, FREEDOM HOLDING CORP, BIRANTHA HOMES



**FIDE WOMEN'S CANDIDATES**  
CYPRUS — 2026

**STANDINGS ROUND 3**

rank	players	points
1-2	ASSAUBAYEVA BIBISARA	2
1-2	LAGNO KATERYNA	2
3-6	GORYACHKINA ALEKSANDRA	1.5
3-6	RAMESHBABU VAISHALI	1.5
3-6	MUZYCHUK ANNA	1.5
3-6	DESHMUKH DIVYA	1.5
7-8	TAN ZHONGYI	1
7-8	ZHU JINER	1

Sponsors: Scheinberg, FIDE, FREEDOM HOLDING CORP, BIRANTHA HOMES



The FIDE Candidates has produced some extraordinary chess in the opening rounds, with deep preparation, sharp tactical sequences, and moments that will find their way into puzzle books for years to come. There were almost too many to choose from, but we settled on one that drew an audible reaction from the media room in Cyprus.

After two rounds in which all eight Women's Candidates games ended in draws, the third round brought fireworks, with three decisive results. One of those was Tan Zhongyi against Kateryna Lagno, a roller coaster game in which both players had their chances before Lagno emerged victorious. We join the game at the moment that settled it. Black has already sacrificed two pieces to tear open the position. The dust has cleared, and the question now falls to you: how does Black finish it off?

[View Solution](#)

**Puzzle Solution**

**43...Rh6+ 44.Kg3 Qd3 45.Qf3** and here comes the move of the game - **45...g4!** threatening ...Rh3#  
 Tan Zhongyi tried to continue the game with 46.Rh2 allowing the capture of the white queen, aiming to hold with a bishop and a knight. Lagno showcased technique and converted the game to her first win of the tournament.



CAP ST GEORGES  
HOTEL & RESORT

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**FIDE Circuit**

# FIDE CIRCUIT LEADERBOARD



APRIL 1, 2026

<b>1</b>	<b>48.92</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>19.32</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>18.75</b>
	<b>NODIRBEK ABDUSATTOROV</b>		<b>JORDEN VAN FOREEST</b>		<b>JAVOKHIR SINDAROV</b>

<b>4</b>		Vincent Keymer	<b>14.06</b>
<b>4</b>		Hans Moke Niemann	<b>14.06</b>
<b>6</b>		Ian Nepomniachtchi	<b>13.57</b>
<b>7</b>		Haik Martirosyan	<b>13.33</b>
<b>8</b>		Aram Hakobyan	<b>12.66</b>
<b>9</b>		Mikhail Al. Antipov	<b>11.26</b>
<b>10</b>		Aravindh Chithambaram VR.	<b>10.52</b>

It is still early in the FIDE Circuit 2026–2027, but the standings are already beginning to take shape. Grandmaster Nodirbek Abdusattorov has established a commanding lead following two major victories in the opening months of the year, winning both the Tata Steel Chess Tournament and the Prague Masters.

Under the updated circuit regulations, points accumulate across a two-year period rather than one, rewarding consistent performance over the long term, which means Abdusattorov's early advantage is substantial but far from decisive. With many high-profile events still to come, the field will have every opportunity to close the gap, and the young Uzbek grandmaster will be a player to watch throughout the cycle.

These are the events from March that have contributed to the current standings, alongside the upcoming April events that will continue to shape the table:

## **MARCH**

- 19th International chess tournament In Memory of Georgy Agzamov, First Grandmaster of Uzbekistan (Tashkent, Uzbekistan, 17-26 March, 2026)
- KazChess Masters Shymkent Round Robin Tournament (Shymkent, Kazakhstan, 21 – 29 March, 2026)
- FIDE Candidates Tournament 2026 (Paphos, Cyprus, March 28 – April 16, 2026)

## **APRIL**

- X Open Internacional de Ajedrez Semana Santa San Vicente del Raspeig 2026 A\* (Alicante, Spain, April 01 – 06, 2026)
- The XXIII Karpov International Chess Tournament (Khanty-Mansijsk, Russia, April 10 – 17, 2026)

\* – provisional

[Learn More](#)

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## FIDE World Team Rapid & Blitz Championship



### Registration Now Open

The fourth edition of the FIDE World Team Rapid and Blitz Chess Championships will take place in Hong Kong from 16 to 22 June 2026, and team registration is now open. Following successful editions in Düsseldorf, Astana, and London, the championship returns with its distinctive mixed-team format, where elite professionals and recreational players compete side by side across rapid and blitz events. Each team plays across six boards and must include at least one female player and at least one recreational player.

The 2026 edition is already shaping up to be the strongest yet. WR Chess have confirmed Magnus Carlsen at board 1, Fabiano Caruana at board 2, and Maxime Vachier-Lagrave also in the lineup, with Hou Yifan and Alexandra Kosteniuk on the women's boards. With reigning Rapid champions MGD1 and other leading

teams expected to return, the competition promises to be fierce.

Places are limited to 42 teams. The registration deadline is **15 May 2026 at 12:00 pm** Lausanne time, and the entry fee is €1,000 per team. Teams and federations are encouraged to register early.

Full regulations and registration: [worldrapidblitzteams2026.fide.com](https://worldrapidblitzteams2026.fide.com)

Register here: <https://formdesigner.pro/form/view/243338>

For enquiries: [hkchessevent@gmail.com](mailto:hkchessevent@gmail.com)



The poster features a dark blue background with a starry pattern. On the left, the FIDE logo is positioned above the event title 'FIDE World Team Rapid and Blitz Chess Championships 2026'. Below the title, the dates '16 — June — 22' and the location 'Hong Kong 2026' are written in a stylized font. The word 'SCHEDULE' is prominently displayed in large, bold, blue letters at the top right. The schedule is organized into six white rounded rectangular boxes, each detailing the activities for a specific day and time slot.

Day	Time	Activity
June 17 - Day 1 Rapid	1:30 pm	Technical Meeting
	1:30 pm	Opening ceremony
	2:00 pm	Round 1
	3:40 pm	Round 2
June 18 - Day 2 Rapid	2:00 pm	Round 5
	3:40 pm	Round 6
	5:20 pm	Round 7
	7:00 pm	Round 8
June 19 - Day 3 Rapid	2:00 pm	Round 9
	3:40 pm	Round 10
	5:20 pm	Round 11
	7:00 pm	Round 12
June 20 - Day 1 Blitz	2:00 pm — 8:00pm	Stage 1: Pools & Stage 2: Round of 16
June 21 - Day 2 Blitz	2:00 pm	Knockout Stage
	2:00 pm	Quarter Finals
	3:15 pm	Semi Final 1
	4:30 pm	Semi Final 2
	5:45 pm	Duel for 3 <sup>rd</sup> place
7:00 pm	Final	
		Closing Ceremony

**FIDE Year of Chess in Education**



### **Latin America Takes a Landmark Step for Chess in Schools**

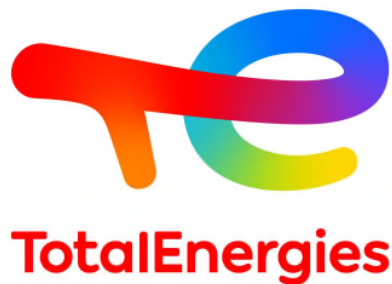
As part of FIDE's Year of Chess in Education 2026, the Chess and Education Summit took place on 20 and 21 March at the Costa Rica Tennis Club in San José, Costa Rica. The two-day event brought together educators, policymakers, and chess development leaders from across the Americas, with a clear practical focus: how to integrate chess into ordinary classroom life across the public education system. Educational advisors from all 27 regions of Costa Rica attended, the majority with no prior experience of chess, which was precisely the intention of the organisers.

The central outcome of the summit was the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding, bringing together Costa Rica's Ministry of Education, the Ministry of Sports, FIDE, the Confederation of Chess for the Americas, and the Costa Rican Chess Federation around a pilot programme to introduce chess in ten Costa Rican public schools as early as April 2026. Twenty-five classroom teachers will be trained through FIDE's Preparation of Teachers course, with a linked curriculum, technical support, and digital tools provided throughout. Dana Reizniece, Deputy Chair of the FIDE Management Board, described it as the first

memorandum of cooperation signed during the Year of Chess in Education, expressing hope that many more would follow across the continent.

The summit also illustrated the wider regional momentum building around the initiative. Guatemala announced plans to launch a national school chess programme in autumn 2026, with \$1.5 million already allocated, and Panama is preparing to host its own conference on chess and education.

Register here: <https://chessedusummit.com>





## Erling Haaland invests in Norway Chess

Football superstar Erling Haaland is investing in Norway Chess and its new tour format, the Total Chess World Championship Tour.

[Read More >>](#)

## Abdusattorov triumphs in Prague

The Uzbek GM won the prestigious Masters tournament, a 10-player round-robin with classical time control, featured a formidable lineup.

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## Updated Swiss Rules

Among the updates are refinements to pairing procedures, clarifications regarding the handling of byes, and structural improvements

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## Updated Play-Off and Tie-Break Regulations

Among the updates is the introduction of Standard Points, making it possible to apply the traditional 1, ½, 0 scoring framework in events that use alternative scoring systems.

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## Updated Chess Equipment Regulations

Among the updates is to streamline the endorsement process for chess equipment and to address handbook provisions.

[Read More >>](#)

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# chessable

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Puzzle Solution


**43...Rh6+ 44.Kg3 Qd3 45.Qf3** and here comes the move of the game - **45...g4!** threatening ...Rh3#


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**UPCOMING**

## FIDE World Cadet & Youth Rapid & Blitz Championships 2026

 14-21 April 2026


 Banja, Serbia


 Swiss | Blitz & Rapid


[Learn More](#)



## FIDE World Senior Teams Championships 2026

 18-29 April 2026


 Durres, Albania


 Swiss | Standard


[Learn More](#)



## FIDE World Youth U14, U16 & U18 Championships 2026

 14-27 June 2026


 Montesilvano, Italy


 Swiss | Standard


[Learn More](#)



## FIDE World Cup U8, U10, U12

 15-28 June 2026


 Batumi, Georgia


 Knockout | Standard


[Learn More](#)



## 3rd FIDE Chess Olympiad for People with Disabilities

 10-18 September 2026


 Samarkand, Uzbekistan


 Swiss | Standard


[Learn More](#)



## 46th Chess Olympiad 2026 & FIDE Congress

 15-28 September

 Samarkand, Uzbekistan

 Swiss | Standard

[Learn More](#)



## FIDE World Junior U20 Championships 2026

📅 September 2026

📍 Lima, Peru\*

♟️ Swiss | Standard

[Learn More](#)



## FIDE World Amateur Championships 2026

📅 15-25 October 2026

📍 Ostuni, Italy

♟️ Swiss | Standard

[Learn More](#)



## FIDE World U7-U17 Championships 2026

📅 20 October - 5 November 2026


📍 For Do Iquacu, Brazil


♟️ Swiss | Standard


[Learn More](#)



## FIDE World Senior Chess Championships 2026

 2-15 November 2026


 Banja, Serbia


 Swiss | Standard


[Learn More](#)



## FIDE World Cadet U8, U10, U12 Chess Championship 2026

 10-17 November 2026

 Batumi, Georgia

 Swiss | Standard

[Learn More](#)





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