FIDE FAQs and Other Information – February 2026

Below are some answers to commonly asked questions regarding our US Chess/FIDE rated tournaments. If you have further questions, please email the FIDE Events Manager at fide@uschess.org.

WHERE CAN I FIND THE FIDE RULES?

All FIDE rated tournaments must use FIDE rules.

The FIDE rules and regulations can be found online in the FIDE Handbook.
https://handbook.fide.com/

The PDF of the Arbiters' Manual can be found online at the FIDE Arbiters' Commission website.
https://arbiters.fide.com/

WHO MAY BE THE ARBITER FOR A US CHESS/FIDE RATED EVENT?

Only FIDE licensed arbiters who are US Chess certified at the Senior TD level or higher are permitted to work as arbiters in our US Chess/FIDE rated tournaments. Unlicensed arbiters are not to be listed as tournament directors in any FIDE section of our US Chess rating reports.

Please refer to the list of USA licensed arbiters at the link below:
https://arbiters.fide.com/arbiters/arbiters-database

If you are a US Chess tournament director certified at the Senior TD level or higher and would like to become a licensed National Arbiter (NA), please email the TD Certification Group at tdcert-group@uschess.org for the NA exam. Upon passing the exam, you will be added to our list of licensed arbiters after paying the license fee of 20 Euros.
*Please note: Only licensed arbiters at the Senior TD level or higher are permitted to earn FIDE Arbiter norms.

I WANT MY EVENT TO BE FIDE RATED. WHAT DO I HAVE TO DO?

Secure Your Arbiter - The first thing you must do is secure a licensed arbiter for your tournament. The arbiter you choose must be a US Chess tournament director certified at the Senior TD level or higher AND must be on the list of licensed arbiters at the link above. Some arbiters with the FA or IA title may not be licensed. They must be. Any tournament offering player norms must have an arbiter who is a US Chess tournament director certified at the Senior TD level or higher, who has the FA or IA Title, and who is also on the list of licensed arbiters.

Register Your Tournament - **ALL** FIDE rated tournaments must be registered **in advance** on the FIDE Ratings Server. Tournaments not registered by the deadline to register **will not** be FIDE rated.
FIDE regulations require advance notice of 3 days to register all non-norm events and 30 days to register all norm events. In order to make sure there is adequate time to register your event, US Chess requires 14 days advance notice for all non-norm events and 45 days advance notice for all norm events.

WHAT TIME CONTROLS MAY BE USED?

Please refer to the FIDE Handbook under FIDE Rating Regulations – Rate of Play.

Any increment or time delay must be included when calculating total time. This calculation is based on games that last 60 moves. See examples below:

1) G/90 + 30 second increment = 120 minutes for game (60 moves X 30 seconds = 30 minutes)
2) G/115 d/5 = 120 minutes for game (60 moves X 5 seconds = 5 minutes)

There can be no more than 12 hours playing time in one day.

Where a certain number of moves is specified in the first time-control, it must be 30 moves.

Minimum time to complete all moves based on rating of player
(calculated based on 60 moves)

1) If there is at least one player in your FIDE rated tournament that has a FIDE rating of 2400 or higher, the minimum time is 120 minutes for game.
2) If there is at least one player in your FIDE rated tournament that has a FIDE rating of 1800 or higher, the minimum time is 90 minutes for game.
3) If all players in the tournament are rated below 1800, the minimum time is 60 minutes for game.

HOW DO I REGISTER MY TOURNAMENT WITH FIDE?

The US Chess FIDE Events Manager uses the information provided in the TLA to register your FIDE rated tournament or alternately, an email with the necessary information may be sent directly to fide@uschess.org. Requests to register a FIDE event sent via email will be posted immediately to the FIDE rating server as long as all the needed information is provided. All USA tournaments to be FIDE rated can be found at the link: https://ratings.fide.com/rated_tournaments.phtml?country=USA

Upon registration, the list above is updated immediately. If your tournament is not on the list of USA events, it has not been registered. Please check to make sure all sections of your tournament have been registered BEFORE the deadline to register has passed. This is the responsibility of the tournament organizer.

If you have a TLA, every section, (including blitz and side events) to be FIDE rated must be listed as such in the TLA. FIDE rates each section of your tournament as a separate tournament. Sections cannot be combined for a FIDE rating report. For example, *FIDE Tournament Championship* and *FIDE Tournament –U2200* will be registered on the FIDE Ratings Server as two separate events.

Information needed to register (each section of) a FIDE rated tournament:

Name of tournament
City and state
Start and end dates
Format (swiss system, round robin, double round robin, team, etc.)
Number of rounds
All time controls
Playing schedule
Expected number of players
Chief Arbiter
Chief Organizer
Website/TLA Advertisement

Please also specify if norms will be possible at your tournament. Many times the TLA does not list who the chief arbiter will be so that information needs to be sent in the email along with the information for the TLA. A tournament will not be registered until the chief arbiter is provided.

HOW DO I REPORT THE RESULTS TO FIDE?

All tournament reports must be submitted to US Chess using a pairing program that is compatible with both FIDE requirements and the FIDE General Data Exchange Format (also known as the Krause format). If you have questions about your pairing program, contact the US Chess FIDE Events Manager at fide@uschess.org.

After submitting your tournament to US Chess for rating, the tournament files and data for players needing new FIDE IDs must be submitted to the US Chess FIDE Events Manager who will create the report and submit it to FIDE.

Tournament files – Email all the tournament files from your pairing program to Bryon Doyle at fide@uschess.org as soon as you have submitted the tournament to US Chess for rating. Prompt submission of your tournament files to the FIDE Events Manager ensures that the tournament will be submitted on time.

If your tournament has multiple schedules with games having time controls that are not FIDE ratable, please send the pre-merge SwissSys or PTO file along with the merged SwissSys or PTO file.

Example: *FIDE OPEN*: 5SS 3-day or 2-day schedule available. 3-day schedule: all rounds G/90 + 30 second increment; 2-day schedule: Round 1 G/60, d5 then merge with 3-day schedule.

Send both SwissSys files: 1) FIDE Open 2-day.S1C 2) FIDE Open Merged.S5C

Player Data - The player data within the tournament file should include Name, US Chess & FIDE ID number, US Chess & FIDE rating, FIDE title if any, and Federation, even if USA, and Birthyear. Any player needing a new FIDE ID may also have email address and birthday included, unless that information is collected in another way and sent along with the tournament file.

Players needing FIDE IDs - All players who participate in a FIDE tournament must have a FIDE ID. The US Chess FIDE Events Manager may ONLY assign USA FIDE IDs. To receive a USA FIDE ID, the player must have U.S. citizenship, naturalization, or residency in the USA. Please refer to the FIDE Handbook, Section B.04 for regulations on registering and licensing of players.

Arbiters are encouraged to request FIDE IDs for players either before or during the tournament by emailing the information to fide@uschess.org.

The chief arbiter is responsible for making sure that all players needing FIDE IDs can successfully be assigned one so that the tournament may be rated in a timely manner. The chief arbiter or organizer MUST collect the necessary information so that the US Chess Rating Officer is able to assign the FIDE ID. **Failure to collect necessary information may result in the tournament not being FIDE rated.** Arbiters may use the form available on the US Chess Website to collect information necessary to assign the FIDE ID, or the arbiter may collect the information some other way, such as entering the information into the SwissSys file.

1) **Players with U.S. citizenship, naturalization, or U.S. residency without FIDE ID** – Collect name, US Chess ID#, city of residence, email address, birthday, and confirm that the player agrees to be assigned the USA FIDE ID.

2) **Foreign players not under category above** – Have the player contact his federation's rating officer to get a FIDE ID. It is possible to get a FIDE ID for the player if the organizer wishes to collect the 60 Euro license fee, (payable to the US Chess office with the regular rating fees) and the player will be assigned an ID under the FIDE flag with a request to be accepted into the player's own federation. In that case, collect name, address, email address, birthday, photocopy of passport, and confirm that the player wishes to be assigned a FIDE ID under his federation. The license is good through June 30 of the following year and must be renewed before July 1 for the FIDE Flag Player to continue to be licensed. All players are encouraged to join their federation.

The 60 Euro license fee must also be paid by any FIDE flag player who has registered for a FIDE ID through FIDE Online Arena (FOA). If any FIDE flag player has registered through FOA and is eligible for the USA FIDE ID, please contact fide@uschess.org right away to have the player's federation changed to USA. This can be done immediately and avoids having to collect the license fee for the FIDE flag player.

Arbiter information: The chief TD of the FIDE rated section as listed in the US Chess rating report will generally be listed as the chief arbiter on the FIDE report. If the US Chess tournament report lists many licensed FIDE arbiters, please make sure to inform the FIDE Events Manager via email who should be listed as chief arbiter for the FIDE report. Other licensed FIDE arbiters will also be listed on the FIDE report. If arbiters are earning norms, please include that information in the email when you submit your file for the rating report. It is the Chief Arbiter and sometimes the Chief Organizer who may sign an arbiter norm. If any arbiter norms are issued, it is the responsibility of the organizer to provide the norm (FA1 or IA1) and the IT3 to the player and to the US Chess FIDE Events Manager. Please email fide@uschess.org before the tournament if you have questions about the procedure for issuing and/or earning arbiter norms.

FIDE ARBITERS AND INTERNATIONAL ARBITERS ISSUING CERTIFICATE OF TITLE RESULT

The FIDE Title Regulations can be found in the FIDE Handbook, section B.01.

Players who earn IM, WIM, GM, or WGM norms should be issued the signed IT1 (Certificate of Title Result) as soon as possible after the tournament. Please check carefully to make sure all fields are correctly filled out and that the norm certificate is legible.

If the chief arbiter is unable to email the US Chess FIDE rating officer a signed copy of the norm certificate, please instruct the player to email a copy to fide@uschess.org.

TITLE APPLICATIONS

Players who have achieved the required norms for the IM, WIM, GM, WGM, Arbiter or Organizers titles should email fide@uschess.org for instructions.

CONCLUSION

This document was created to provide general information about our US Chess/FIDE rated tournaments and as a resource for understanding basic procedures necessary to efficiently submit reports to US Chess for FIDE rating. There are many topics not covered in this document and players, arbiters, and organizers are encouraged to send an email if they need further information.

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(Revised FIDE Events Manager 2026)