

FIDE FAQs and Other Information

Below are some answers to commonly asked questions regarding tournaments that are both US Chess and FIDE rated. If you have further questions, please email Chris Bird at fide@uschess.org.

WHERE CAN I FIND THE FIDE RULES?

All FIDE rated tournaments must use the FIDE Laws of Chess.

The FIDE Laws of Chess and regulations can be found online in the FIDE Handbook at <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 licensed FIDE arbiters who are certified US Chess Tournament Directors (TD) at the Senior level or higher are permitted to work as arbiters in US Chess/FIDE rated tournaments. Unlicensed arbiters are not to be listed as tournament directors in any FIDE rated section of the 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 TD certified at the Senior level or higher and would like to become a licensed FIDE National Arbiter (NA), please email Chris Bird at fide@uschess.org to request the FIDE NA exam. Upon passing the exam, we will submit your application to be added to our list of licensed arbiters after paying the license fee of 20 Euros.

Please note that 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 FIDE arbiter for your tournament. The arbiter you choose must be a US Chess TD certified at the Senior 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 TD certified at the Senior level or higher, who has the FIDE Arbiter (FA) or International Arbiter (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 7 days to register all non-norm events and 30 days to register all norm events. To make sure there is adequate time to register your event, US Chess requires 10 days advance notice for all non-norm events and 33 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 40 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 2200 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 1600 or higher, the minimum time is 90 minutes for game.
- 3) If all players in the tournament are rated below 1600, the minimum time is 60 minutes for game.

Norm Events - Please see the international Title Regulations of FIDE for additional time control regulations for FIDE rated norm events. Please note that from July 1st, 2021, games played without an increment of at least 30 seconds per move will not be valid for titles or title norms, except in the case of disabled players.

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. Once your TLA has been approved, please send the TLA link, along with the name and FIDE ID of the Chief Arbiter and Chief Organizer, to the FIDE Events Manager at fide@uschess.org. If you did not submit a TLA, 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 if all the needed information is provided. All registered USA tournaments to be FIDE rated can be found at the following 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

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 FIDE Endorsed Pairing Program. 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 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 Chris Bird 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 to FIDE as quickly as possible.

If your tournament has multiple schedules with games having time controls that are not FIDE ratable, please send the pre-merge SwissSys file along with the merged SwissSys 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 and 2) FIDE Open Merged.S5C

Player Data - The player data within the tournament file should include Name, US Chess & FIDE ID numbers, US Chess & FIDE ratings, FIDE title if any, and Federation.

FIDE IDs

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 either 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.

The Chief Arbiter is responsible for ensuring all players in a FIDE rated tournament have a FIDE ID for when the report is submitted to US Chess for rating. Please use one of the following methods for requesting FIDE IDs:

- 1) Any player who meets the eligibility requirements for a USA-flagged FIDE can complete our simple FIDE ID request form at <https://forms.gle/K7EFHNzp1cnW6bLAA>. All players eligible for a USA-flagged FIDE ID who do not have a US Chess ID must submit their request using this method.
- 2) The Chief Arbiter or Chief Organizer can submit a request to fide@uschess.org providing a minimum of name and US Chess ID, along with a statement attesting that “the player(s) is/are eligible to get a USA-flagged FIDE ID and has agreed to have a USA-flagged FIDE ID”. If US Chess is missing any information needed to provide a FIDE ID: gender, DOB and email address, the arbiter/organizer must then provide that information upon request.
- 3) The Chief Arbiter or Chief Organizer may collect the information on the following form and submit it to the FIDE Events Manager for processing, https://new.uschess.org/sites/default/files/media/documents/fideid_signupsheet_uschess.pdf.
- 4) Foreign players not eligible for a USA-flagged FIDE ID must contact their own federation to obtain a FIDE ID. The contacts for other federations can be found at <https://fide.com/directory/member-federations>.
- 5) If a player does not wish to have a FIDE ID associated with a federation, you must collect name, address, email address, birthday and a photocopy of their passport or identification and submit it to US Chess. You will be charged a 60 Euro license fee and the player will be assigned a generic FIDE-flagged FIDE ID for which they will be charged 60 Euro per year.

The Chief Arbiter is responsible for ensuring all players in a FIDE rated event have a FIDE ID. Submission of any rating report to US Chess without all players having a FIDE ID may result in the tournament not being FIDE rated.

ARBITER INFORMATION FOR FIDE RATING REPORTS

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 Chief Arbiter to provide the norm (FA1 or IA1) and the IT3 to the arbiter and to the US Chess FIDE Events Manager. Please email Chris Bird at fide@uschess.org before the tournament if you have questions about the procedure for issuing and/or earning arbiter norms.

All arbiter norms must be submitted on the latest forms found at <https://handbook.fide.com/chapter/B062021>

FIDE ARBITERS AND INTERNATIONAL ARBITERS ISSUING PLAYER CERTIFICATES OF TITLE RESULT

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

Players who earn GM, WGM, IM or WIM 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. All player norm forms can be found at <https://handbook.fide.com/chapter/B01Regulations2017>.

The Chief Arbiter should email a signed copy of the norm form to the FIDE Events Manager at fide@uschess.org who will then verify the norm, sign and send it on to FIDE for their records.

TITLE APPLICATIONS

Players who have achieved the required norms and rating requirements for the GM, WGM, IM or WIM or arbiters who have completed their title requirements for IA or FA should email Chris Bird at fide@uschess.org for instructions on how to apply for their titles.

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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