REGULATIONS

International Chess Festival

"Sheki Open - 2026"

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. "Premier School" of Chess.

3. Playing venue, date

3.1. Festival will be held in Sheki in "Markhal Resort".
3.2. Festival will be held on 18 (arrival) - 25 june (last round and closing) 2026.

4. Festival rules

4.1. Festival includes "Chess Tour Azerbaijan" (tour2026.chess.az).
4.2. Tournaments are organized within the festival in 2 groups (A, B,C) 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 1900 and above.
4.4.2. Group B is open to chess players rated 1899 and below.
4.4.3. Group C is open for the girls and boys under 12 years old.
4.5. Each of the three groups is held according to the Swiss system, consisting of 9 rounds.
4.6. 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. 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.
4.8. Default time is 15 minutes in categories A ,Band C.
4.9. Organizer is allowed to accept players with lower rating (max. 10 players).
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:

In group A, B,C, Rapid, Blitz
1. Direct encounter (the results of the players in the same point group);
2. Number of victories;
3. Buchholts (cut 1);
4. Buchholts.

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 competition website (shekiopen.chess.az) and www.chess-results.com.

4.12. The schedule of competitions is as follows:

Date	Event	Time	
18 june 2026	Arrival	During the day	
	Confirmation of registr.	10:00-20:00	
19 june 2026	Opening ceremony	14:30	
19 june 2026	1st round	Group A ,B & C 15:00	
20 june 2026	2nd round	Group A ,B & C 10:00	
20 june 2026	3rd round	Group A ,B & C 16:00	
21 june 2026	4th round	Group A ,B & C 10:00	Blitz 16:00
22 june 2026	5th round	Group A ,B & C 10:00	Rapid 16:00
23 june 2026	6th round	Group A ,B & C 10:00	
23 june 2026	7th round	Group A ,B & C 16:00	
24 june 2026	8th round	Group A ,B & C 10:00	
25 june 2026	9th round	Group A ,B & C 10:00	
	Closing ceremony	16:00	

5. Registration and entry fee

5.1. Registration is open from the date of the festival announcement until June 10, 2026.

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

5.3. The entry fee for participation in the festival is determined according to the following table:

Entry fee	
No rated	80 AZN
>1699	70 AZN
>1999	60 AZN
>2200	40 AZN
>2400	30 AZN
Rapid/Blitz	20 AZN

5.4. The following are free entry fees:

a) Grandmasters (men and women)

b) International Masters (men and women)

6. Prizes

6.1. The total prize fund is 25,000 AZN

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

6.3. Prizes are determined according to the following tables:

Place	Group A		
	General		
1	5100 AZN + cup	Best woman	I place - 300 AZN
2	3400 AZN	U16	I place - 300 AZN
3	2000 AZN	<2099	I place - 300 AZN
4	1000 AZN	Local player (Sheki)	I place - 300 AZN
5	800 AZN		
6	700 AZN		
7	600 AZN		
8	500 AZN		
9	400 AZN		
10	300 AZN		

Place	Group B		
	General	Best Woman	Not rated
1	1000 AZN + cup	I place - 200 AZN	I place - 200 AZN
2	800 AZN	II place - 150 AZN	II place - 150 AZN
3	600 AZN	III place - 100 AZN	III place - 100 AZN
4	500 AZN	Local player (Sheki)	I place - 300 AZN
5	400 AZN		
6	300 AZN		
7	200 AZN		
8	200 AZN		
9	150 AZN		
10	150 AZN		

Rapid		Blitz	
I place	250 AZN	I place	200 AZN
II place	150 AZN	II place	150 AZN
III place	100 AZN	III place	100 AZN
IV place	50 AZN	IV place	50 AZN
V place	50 AZN	V place	50 AZN
Woman - I place	50 AZN	Woman - I place	50 AZN
Not rated- I place	50 AZN	Not rated- I place	50 AZN
U12 - I place	50 AZN	U12 - I place	50 AZN

C qrupu	
I place	500 AZN
II place	350 AZN
III place	250AZN
IV place	200 AZN
V place	150 AZN
U8 boy and girl	1st Place – 100 AZN
	2nd Place – Diploma and Medal
	3rd Place – Diploma and Medal
U10 boy and girl	1st Place – 100 AZN
	2nd Place – Diploma and Medal
	3rd Place – Diploma and Medal
U12 boy and girl	1st Place – 100 AZN
	2nd Place – Diploma and Medal
	3rd Place – Diploma and Medal
Not rated	1st Place – 100 AZN
	2nd Place – Diploma and Medal
	3rd Place – Diploma and Medal

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

6.4. If a participant takes several places eligible for a prize, he can only receive 1 prize (the highest one).

6.5. 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. Chess players with an international coefficient of more than 2500 (men) and women's chess players with an international coefficient of more than 2300 as of June 1, 2026 (first 10 players in total) will be hosted by the organizers, including 3 meals.

7.2. Hotel expenses for participants are proposed as per the table below:

Hotels	Double room (per 1 person)		Single room	
	With breakfast	Full board	With breakfast	Full board
“Marxal Resort&Spa” 5*	95 AZN	155 AZN	185 AZN	245 AZN
“Farden Holiday Village”	40 AZN	60 AZN	65 AZN	85 AZN

8. Appeal

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 be submitted only in writing and upon payment of the appropriate fee - 200 (two 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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“Chess Tour Azerbaijan” project: tour2026.chess.az