

OPEN MASTERS GAMES

ABU DHABI 2026

CHESS



V3

Updated: January 26, 2026

1. General Information

1.1. Governance

The Chess event will be conducted in line with the competition rules of the FIDE (International Chess Federation) and the UAE Chess Federation.

1.2. Eligibility

In line with the sport-specific rules, an athlete must compete in their designated age group, with their age determined as of 31 December 2026. For example, if you are 39 years old during the Games time but turn 40 by 31 December 2026, you would compete in the 40-44 age category.

Athletes can enter a maximum of three individual events: Standard, blitz & rapid chess, competitive or recreational grade* (*FIDE Rated players will play in the competitive grade tournaments). The age category entered in each of the individual events can be either the athlete's actual age category or a younger category. However, an athlete who chooses to compete in a younger age category can only do so for one event.

- Example #1: an 84-year-old female athlete can enter the 80+ or the 70+ or the 60+ etc women's.
- Example #2: a 42-year-old male athlete can enter the 40+ men's or the 30+ men's. If he is an unrated player, he can join both the competitive and recreational grades.

Health Declaration


Athletes should carefully evaluate whether their physical condition is suitable for participating in the competition. If they suffer from cardiovascular or other diseases that make them not suitable to engage strenuous exercise, seeking doctor's advice is recommended to evaluate whether they can safely participate in WMG events.

Health Insurance

- All participants **MUST** have a medical insurance policy while in the U.A.E.
- Residents and citizens must ensure their respective health insurance policy covers sports injuries.

The Ziyarah Plan, provided by Daman, is a health insurance policy specifically created for the Open Masters Games. You can purchase this plan using the link below


<https://www.damanhealth.ae/products/inbound-emergency-medical-travel-insurance-ziyarah-open-masters/>



Ziyarah Plan (Open Masters Games)


Ensuring your peace of mind for the upcoming event

Coverage Period: 15 days




Scope of Coverage:

- Upto AED 250,000, comprehensive coverage for medical emergencies and sports-related injuries incurred during the event period.
- Direct billing at network providers.
- Consultations through Pura App (Maximum up to 3 consultations).




Eligibility Requirements:

- Registered players and their accompanying family members.
- Health Insurance plan to be purchased before participants travel to UAE.





Premium details:

- Upto 60 years: AED 86 (VAT extra)
- 61years & above: AED 215 (VAT extra)



Important Note for Residents and UAE Nationals

UAE residents (Expats) & UAE nationals will need to ensure their respective health insurance plans cover sports injuries, as they will not be eligible for this plan

damaninsurance.ae

Accreditation

All participants must have approved accreditation to access the fields of play and to compete. This accreditation can be collected for the Uniform Distribution and Accreditation Centre (U.D.A.C) located in Zayed Sports City.

Team captains, coaches/managers and assistant managers **cannot** collect accreditation on behalf of teammates. Each participant must personally present themselves and their ID at the point of collection. It is at this point that participants will also receive their welcome kit.

The operating dates and hours of the UDAC will be announced in due course. Please subscribe to the OMGAD newsletter and or download our app for the latest push updates.



1.3. Dates

Dates	Feb 7 th Saturday	Feb 8 th Sunday	Feb 9 th Monday	Feb 10 th Tuesday	Feb 11 th Wednesday	Feb 12 th Thursday	Feb 13 th Friday	Feb 14 th Saturday
Rapid								
Standard						Intergenerational Day (Invite Only)		
Blitz								

1.4. Venue

[Abu Dhabi National Exhibition Centre \(ADNEC\)](#)

2. Competition Information

2.1. Disciplines, Events & Grading

Event	Grade	Category	
		Gender	Age
Standard Chess	Competitive	Male	30+, 40+, 50+, 60+, 70+, 80+
		Female	
	Recreational	Male	
		Female	
Rapid Chess	Competitive	Male	
		Female	
	Recreational	Male	
		Female	
Blitz Chess	Competitive	Male	
		Female	
	Recreational	Male	
		Female	

The following grade definitions have been determined for the Chess competition:

- **Competitive:** Open to players with and without a FIDE rating
- **Recreational:** For social and casual players. **FIDE-rated players are *not* allowed** to compete at this level.

Intergenerational Day

Generations in Motion presented by Mubadala, *the Official Intergenerational Partner for the Open Masters Games*, is a vibrant celebration of sport, family, and connection - bringing the Open Masters Games to life through 24 dynamic, unified sports activities designed to unite generations on the field of play. Throughout the Games, Youth will be paired with Open Masters athletes in fun, inclusive experiences that showcase the joy of movement while strengthening intergenerational bonds.

This is invite only and will take place on Thursday the 12th.

2.2. Schedule

Date	Time	Event	Categories
Saturday 7th of February	11:00	Technical Meeting	All (Attendance is not mandatory)
	15:30	Participants Arrival	All
	16:00	Round 1 Rapid Chess	All
	17:00	Round 2 Rapid Chess	All
	18:00	Round 3 Rapid Chess	All
Sunday 8th of February	16:00	Round 4 Rapid Chess	All
	17:00	Round 5 Rapid Chess	All
	18:00	Round 6 Rapid Chess	All (Except MC 50+60+)
	19:00	Round 7 Rapid Chess	All (Except MC 50+60+ & FC 50+)
Sunday 8th of February	20:30	Award Ceremony	All Rapid Chess Categories
Monday 9th of February	16:30	Participants Arrival	All
	17:00	Round 1 Standard Chess	All
	19:00	Round 2 Standard Chess	All
Tuesday 10th of February	17:00	Round 3 Standard Chess	All
	19:00	Round 4 Standard Chess	All
Wednesday 11th of February	17:00	Round 5 Standard Chess	All
	19:00	Round 6 Standard Chess	All
Wednesday 11th of February	21:00	Award Ceremony	All Standard Chess Categories
Thursday 12th of February	15:00 to 18:00	Inter-generational event	Invited participants only
Friday 13th of February	15:30	Participants Arrival	All
	16:00	Round 1 Blitz Chess	All
	16:40	Round 2 Blitz Chess	All
	17:20	Round 3 Blitz Chess	All
	18:00	Round 4 Blitz Chess	All
Friday 13th of February	19:30	Award Ceremony	Blitz FR40+50+60+ Only
Saturday, 14th of February	16:00	Round 5 Blitz Chess	All (Except FR40+50+60+)
	16:40	Round 6 Blitz Chess	All (Except FR40+50+60+)
	17:20	Round 7 Blitz Chess	All (Except MC 50+60; FR40+50+60+ & FC 50+)
	18:00	Round 8 Blitz Chess	All (Except MC 50+60; FR40+50+60+ & FC 50+)
	18:40	Round 9 Blitz Chess	All (Except MC 50+60; FR40+50+60+ & FC 50+)
Saturday, 14th of February	20:00	Award Ceremony	All Blitz Chess Categories

MR= Male
Recreational
MC=Male Competitive

FR= Female Recreational
FC= Female Competitive

2.3. Format

Standard Chess

- All Standard chess tournaments will be played in a Swiss System of 6 rounds (or Round-Robin system if the number of participants per category is below 8).
- Time control for each player in Standard Chess is 30 minutes plus 30 seconds increment from move 1.

Rapid Chess

- All Rapid chess tournaments will be played in a Swiss System of 7 rounds (or Round-Robin system if the number of participants per category is below 8).
- Time control for each player in Rapid Chess: 10 minutes + 5 seconds increment from move 1.

Blitz Chess

- All Blitz chess tournaments will be played in a Swiss System of 9 rounds (or Round-Robin system if the number of participants per category is below 8).
- Time control for each player in Rapid Chess: 5 minutes + 3 seconds increment from move 1.

The scoring system will be: 1 point for victory, $\frac{1}{2}$ point for a draw, and 0 for a loss. The final standings will be decided based on the total number of points gained by each participant.

3. Technical Details

3.1. Technical Delegate

The Technical Delegate will be Saeed Al Khouri. Mr. Al Khouri will oversee the implementation of all sport-specific rules and requirements at the Games.

3.2. Technical Meeting

The participant technical meeting will be held on the 7th of February at 11am at competition venue. This will be in conference hall B.

3.3. Competition Management

#	Name	Position	Email
1.	Saeed Al Khouri	Technical Delegate	saeedalkhouri@hotmail.com
2.	Bogdan Garbea	Competition Manager	chess@omgad2026.ae

4. Equipment & Uniform

4.1. Equipment

FIDE approved competition chess sets, clocks, and other materials will be provided for competition matches.

4.2. Uniform

Participants must wear clothing appropriate to the cultural values of the United Arab Emirates. This means that wearing sleeveless tops and tank tops, and shorts and skirts above the knee, will not be permitted.

Uniforms must be free of any political messages, personal slogans, or imagery that could be deemed inappropriate or disruptive to the spirit of the competition.

5. Awarding

5.1. Medals

The top 3 players will be awarded the gold medal, silver medal and bronze medal respectively.

5.2. Ceremonies

- In OMGAD2026, athletes are individuals and represent themselves. National flags and anthems will not be included in medal ceremonies.
- The medal ceremony will be conducted in Arabic and English.

6. Protests and Appeals

6.1. Protests

- Competition-related disputes and protests shall be handled according to rules and related regulations of the international association of the sport. If there are no rules regarding such disputes and protests in place, the competitor may first make verbal protest and submit written protest to OMGAD within 30 minutes after the end of a contest.
- No protest can be lodged by any team members or staff against a judging (scoring) decision during the competition period.

6.2. Appeals

- Based on the principle of trust, the Organizer will not take the initiative to review the grade of athletes upon registration. Matters regarding athlete qualifications and grades should be submitted to the Organizer with relevant supporting materials before the Games or when the fact occurs. The complaint will be handled in accordance with the rules and relevant regulations of international sports federations and relevant regulations.
- Applications that are not submitted within the stipulated time or with incomplete materials will not be accepted.

7. Doping Control

7.1. Regulations

- Doping Control should be conducted in accordance with WADA World Anti-Doping Code (<https://www.wada-ama.org/en>) and International Masters Games Association (IMGA) Anti-Doping Rules (<https://imga.ch/masterssports/anti-doping>).
- Participants are deemed to have agreed to be subject to doping control procedures in accordance with the International Masters Games Association Anti-Doping Rules upon entry to the competition. Participants must obey antidoping rules and conduct themselves in a considerate manner.