

UTeM - MCF MALAYSIAN CHESS CHAMPIONSHIP 2026

Organized by
PERSEKUTUAN CATUR MALAYSIA
THE MALAYSIAN CHESS FEDERATION (MCF)

Venue Sponsored and Hosted by
UNIVERSITI TEKNIKAL MALAYSIA MELAKA
Hang Tuah Jaya, Durian Tunggal, Melaka
1st April (Wednesday) to 5th April 2026 (Sunday)



Rules and Regulations

1. ENTRY REGULATIONS

1.1. Eligibility

- 1.1.1. This event is open to **Malaysian Citizens** only.
- 1.1.2. This is a National Level and FIDE Rated event. **ALL PLAYERS must have both FIDE ID and MCF ID to participate.**

1.2. Playing Categories and Rating Requirements

1.2.1. **OPEN and WOMEN Category**

- 1.2.1.1. Players must have a minimum FIDE Standard Rating of 1800 (for Open) and a minimum FIDE Standard Rating of 1400 (for Women)
- 1.2.1.2. Women players with a FIDE Standard Rating between 1400 and 1800 are allowed to choose their playing category - either Women or Challenger.
- 1.2.1.3. Players with FIDE Standard Rating below the minimum required, are only accepted if they are representing the state as per 1.3.2.1
- 1.2.1.4. Players without FIDE Standard Rating/Unrated are not allowed to participate in the Open/Women Category

1.2.2. **CHALLENGER Category**

- 1.2.2.1. Players must not exceed FIDE Rating of 1800 (March 2026 Release)
- 1.2.2.2. Players do not have any OTB FIDE Title
- 1.2.2.3. Players are Unrated/Without FIDE Standard Rating

1.3. Entry Requirements

- 1.3.1. Titled Players - GM/IM/WIM, former Champions, and players with a FIDE Rating of 2200 and above (for Men) and 2000 and above (for Women), are invited to participate at no charge. Please write to mcfsecretariat@malaysiachess.org to confirm your registration.
- 1.3.2. State Entries
 - 1.3.2.1. Each State can nominate three (3) players for each of the event offered - Open, Women and Challenger events
 - 1.3.2.2. Each State can also nominate players who has a Standard Rating of below 1800 (for Open) and 1600 (for Women) if it is within their allocation mentioned in 1.3.2.1
 - 1.3.2.3. For the Open event, player with a FIDE Rating of below 1600 is not eligible to play.
 - 1.3.2.4. Unrated players are not eligible to play in both the Open/Women events
- 1.3.3. Open Entries
 - 1.3.3.1. All Open entries are accepted at the discretion of the Organizer as long as each player meets the minimum Standard Rating requirement

1.4. Condition for Entry

At any time throughout the registration period, the Malaysian Chess Federation RESERVES THE RIGHT TO ACCEPT OR REJECT any application including nominations from the State affiliate without providing any reasons whatsoever.

- 1.4.1. In situations where a state nomination has been rejected by the Malaysian Chess Federation, the state has the right to field a replacement provided it fulfils the minimum requirement stipulated in para 1.3.

2. REGISTRATION

2.1. Registration Portal

The Malaysian Chess Federation will only accept entries via the official registration form at:
<https://forms.gle/G3Hi3VuD8uM8WFNh7>

Alternatively, please scan the QR Code below to register



Submission for all state entries must be done and submitted by their respective state chess associations before the closing date

For more information, please contact:

MCF Secretariat at mcfsecretariat@malaysiachess.org or inquiries@malaysiachess.org / Whatsapp: +6011.6262.4377

2.2. Entry Fees

2.2.1. OPEN EVENT

GM / IM / NM / FIDE Rating of 2200+

F.O.C.

NOTE: Please contact mcfsecretariat@malaysiachess.org directly to register.

STATE ENTRY (Limited to 3 players only)

FIDE RATING 2000 and ABOVE

F.O.C

BETWEEN 1800 and 2000

RM 150

BETWEEN 1600 and 1800

RM 250

OPEN ENTRY

FIDE RATING 2000 and ABOVE

RM 100

BETWEEN 1800 and 2000

RM 250

BETWEEN 1600 and 1800

RM 350

*NOTE: Event is limited to players who has a **Standard FIDE Rating of 1600 and above ONLY** (as of March 2026).*

2.2.2. WOMEN EVENT

WIM / WNM / FIDE Rating of 2000+

F.O.C.

NOTE: Please contact mcfsecretariat@malaysiachess.org directly to register.

STATE ENTRY (Limited to 3 players only)

FIDE RATING 1800 and ABOVE

F.O.C

BETWEEN 1600 and 1800

RM 90

BELOW 1600

RM 150

OPEN ENTRY

FIDE RATING 1800 and ABOVE

RM 60

BETWEEN 1600 and 1800

RM 150

BELOW 1600

RM 250

NOTE: Event is limited to players who has a Standard FIDE Rating ONLY (as of March 2026).

2.2.3. CHALLENGER CATEGORY

State Entry - Limited to three (3) players only

RM 100

Player with a FIDE Rating

RM 150

Player without FIDE Rating

RM 200

OKU

RM 60

UTeM Students/Staff

RM 60

3. CLOSING

All registration complete with fee must be submitted no later than the **25th of March 2026**. Entries submitted after this date will be accepted at organizer's discretion and will incur a penalty of RM200 per entry.

4. PAYMENTS

All payment to be credited to the following bank account:

| | | |
|----------------|---|-----------------------------------|
| Account Name | : | Persekutuan Catur Malaysia |
| Bank Name | : | CIMB |
| Account Number | : | 8000649725 |

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5. REFUND POLICY

- 5.1. Refund requested before the closing date shall only be 50% from the entry fee amount.
- 5.2. No Refund shall be entertained nor accepted after the closing date has lapsed

6. TECHNICAL REGULATIONS

- 6.1. The latest **FIDE Laws of Chess** shall be enforced throughout the championship. For references, please go to <https://handbook.fide.com/chapter/E012023>

- 6.2. Championship Format

The format for all the Open, Women, and Challenger events offered are as follows:

| | |
|------------------|------------------------------------|
| Event Discipline | : Standard |
| Time control | : 90 minutes + 30 second increment |
| Event Type | : Individual |
| Number of Rounds | : 9 Rounds Swiss |
| Waiting Time | : 30 minutes |
| Pairing System | : Swiss Manager |
| Status | : FIDE Rated and MCF Rated |

- 6.3. Tie Break

The tie break used for the all the events offered and its sequences are as follow:

1. Direct Encounter
2. Number of Wins
3. Buchholz Cut 1
4. Buchholz
5. Sonneborn Berger
6. Progressive Score

- 6.4. Players Seeding / Ranking

For the purposes of seeding the players, FIDE Rating for March 2026 shall be used.
For the purposes of submission to FIDE, FIDE Rating for April 2026 shall be used.

- 6.5. Pairing for Round 1

- 6.5.1. At the start of Round 1, when all the clocks have started, the Chief Arbiter and the Pairing Arbiter reserves the right to force pair players against other players whose opponents are not present at the table. Force pair opponents may also include those who have registered late for the event, or a player who has been given a bye.
- 6.5.2. Player's colour preferences will depend on the initial colour given to the higher rated player and the opponent to play the opposite colour.
- 6.5.3. The pairing of the players will be at the discretion of the Chief Arbiter and where possible, to avoid a highly rated/ranked player playing against another highly rated/ranked player
- 6.5.4. Later opponents who arrived after the force has been completed, will follow the same rule and to be force paired with a new opponent, or where necessary, will be given a bye.
- 6.5.5. This pairing exception is only applicable at the start of Round 1, and not at any other rounds

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6.6. Additional Championship Rules and Regulations

- 6.6.1. A player who wishes to withdraw from the tournament is required to submit a letter in writing to the Chief Arbiter failing which, disciplinary action will be taken against the player including banning the player from participating in future MCF events.
- 6.6.2. Additional Rules and Regulations specific to this championship imposed by the Organizing Committee/MCF, shall be made known as and when required.

6.7. Repeated Offenders

Player(s) who is found to repeatedly breach any of the rules and regulations imposed by the organizer including behaviours and attitudes unbecoming of a sportsman, shall be expelled from this tournament and other future MCF programs. In this case, the expelled player shall not have any rights to any prizes or refund of any kind, irrespective of his standing at the time of expulsion.

7. CHAMPIONSHIP SCHEDULE

7.1. Tournament Schedule

The championship schedule is as follows:

| DAY | DATE | DAY | TIME | AGENDA |
|-------|-----------|-----|---------|----------------------|
| Day 1 | 1 Apr, 26 | Wed | Morning | Arrival |
| | | | 2:00pm | Player's Meeting |
| | | | 2:30pm | Opening Ceremony |
| | | | 3:00pm | Round 1 |
| Day 2 | 2 Apr, 26 | Thu | 8:30am | Round 2 |
| | | | 3:00pm | Round 3 |
| Day 3 | 3 Apr, 26 | Fri | 8:30am | Round 4 |
| | | | 3:00pm | Round 5 |
| Day 4 | 4 Apr, 26 | Sat | 8:30am | Round 6 |
| | | | 3:00pm | Round 7 |
| Day 5 | 5 Apr, 26 | Sun | 8:30am | Round 8 |
| | | | 2:30pm | Round 9 |
| | | | 6:30pm | Closing/Prize Giving |
| | | | 7:00pm | Departure |

7.2. Changes in the Schedule

The Malaysian Chess Federation reserves the rights to change, alter, delete, add, or otherwise amend the schedule without providing any prior notice(s).

8. APPEALS COMMITTEE

- 8.1. An appeal committee consisting of five (5) members plus two (2) reserves shall be appointed during the player's meeting.
- 8.2. Appeals must be submitted in writing to the Organizing Committee within thirty (30) minutes at the conclusion of the disputed game accompanied with a RM500 appeal fee.
- 8.3. If the appeal is upheld, the fee shall be returned or otherwise forfeited.
- 8.4. Decisions arising from the appeal is deemed as final.

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9. ANTI CHEATING and FAIR PLAY

- 9.1. FIDE Anti Cheating Regulations will be in full force and effect throughout the course of the championship.
- 9.2. All players/persons playing in the tournament must agree for their bags and/or persons to be inspected by the Arbiter at all times during the course of the championship. Failure to comply to the request may result in severe warning including being removed from playing the current round, suspended, or expelled from the tournament.
- 9.3. Players/persons who are caught cheating or attempting to cheat will be dealt with swiftly and will be removed and expelled from the championship immediately.
- 9.4. Points earned by the players/persons who are caught cheating will be zeroed out, but points earned by that of the opponents, will remain as is.
- 9.5. All cheating incidences that that happened during the championship will be reported to FIDE and players/persons who are found guilty may be banned from playing chess for up to 15 years.

10. AWARDS & PRIZES

10.1. Awards

The winner of the Open and Women category shall be awarded the title of "National Masters" and "National Women Masters" respectively.

10.2. Total Cash Prize Fund

The total cash prize fund allocation for this championship is RM 17,000

| | |
|---------------------|----------|
| Open Category | RM 8,000 |
| Women Category | RM 5,000 |
| Challenger Category | RM 4,000 |

10.3. Cash Prize Fund Breakdown

For OPEN Category (RM 8,000) - **Increased**

Main Prizes

| | | |
|-----------------------------------|-------------------------|--------------|
| Champion | RM 3,000 + Gold Medal | |
| Runner Up | RM 2,000 + Silver Medal | |
| 3 rd | RM 1,000 + Bronze Medal | |
| 4 th & 5 th | RM 500 each | *Newly Added |

Category Prizes

| | |
|-------------------|----------------|
| Best Veteran 50+ | RM 500 + Medal |
| Best Junior - U18 | RM 500 + Medal |

For WOMEN Category (RM 5,000) - **Increased**

Main Prizes

| | | |
|-----------------------------------|-------------------------|--------------|
| Champion | RM 2,000 + Gold Medal | |
| Runner Up | RM 1,100 + Silver Medal | |
| 3 rd | RM 700 + Bronze Medal | |
| 4 th & 5 th | RM 300 each | *Newly Added |

Category Prizes

| | |
|-------------------|----------------|
| Best Junior - U18 | RM 300 + Medal |
| Best Junior - U12 | RM 300 + Medal |

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For CHALLENGER Category (RM 4,000)

Main Prizes

| | |
|-----------------|-----------------------|
| Champion | RM 1,000 + Gold Medal |
| Runner Up | RM 600 + Silver Medal |
| 3 rd | RM 400 + Bronze Medal |

Category Prizes

| | |
|--------------------------------|-----------------------|
| Best Women | RM 250 + Gold Medal |
| 2 nd Best Women | RM 180 + Silver Medal |
| 3 rd Best Women | RM 120 + Bronze Medal |
| Best Vet (50+) | RM 250 + Gold Medal |
| 2 nd Best Vet (50+) | RM 180 + Gold Medal |
| 3 rd Best Vet (50+) | RM 120 + Gold Medal |
| Best Collegiate | RM 150 + Gold Medal |
| Best U1600 | RM 150 + Gold Medal |
| Best Unrated | RM 150 + Gold Medal |
| Best OKU | RM 150 + Gold Medal |
| Best UTeM (Men) | RM 150 + Gold Medal |
| Best UTeM (Women) | RM 150 + Gold Medal |

Prizes offered for the all the sub-categories must have at least THREE (3) or more players vying for the position and achieving at least 50% or 4.5 points from the total 9 rounds played.

10.4. Prize Eligibility and Priority

Where a player is eligible to earn more than one prize, the prize with the higher RM value will be given first to the player. Where the value is the same, the priority will follow the category prizing sequence as advertised with the "Best" title award as the main criteria.

11. GRAND PRIX CIRCUIT 2026

- 11.1. A total of 250 Grand Prix points shall be distributed to the top 32 players in the Open and Women events. Another 180 Grand Prix points shall be distributed to the top 32 players in the Challenger event
- 11.2. Please refer to www.malaysiachess.org for more information on how the Grand Prix points are divided for the winners

12. OTHER OFFERS TO THE MAIN WINNERS

12.1. Malaysia's Masters Chess Championship

The top three (3) winners for Open and Women events - Champion, Runner Up and 3rd placed player, will earn automatic slots in the Malaysia Masters Chess Championship to be held between May and July in Kuala Lumpur.

12.2. Malaysia's Representative to World and Asia Level events

Where required and invited, the National Champions will represent Malaysia at Regional, Continental and International level events organized by FIDE, ACF and other International Chess entities.

Should the Champion decline to accept, the opportunity will be offered to the Runner Up and if rejected, to the 3rd placed player. The offer will only be opened to the public with additional requirements imposed by the Selection Committee for the player to be selected. All offers are subjected to MCF Terms and Conditions, and Policies

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13. ACCOMMODATION, MEAL and TRAVELING

All players participating in the Championship shall be responsible for their own accommodation, board and lodging, meals and travelling arrangements and cost including their own safety and well-being before, during, after and throughout the duration of the event.

14. DRESS CODE

Players are required to wear smart casual, formal suits or state's jersey when entering the championship hall. Shorts, slippers, round neck t-shirts, attire with offensive wordings, skimpy and revealing clothing will not be allowed in the playing hall.

As the event is taking place within the campus of Universiti Teknikal Malaysia Melaka, players are required to adhere to all the Rules and Regulations imposed by the Management of the Universiti. If a player is reprimanded by the Universiti official and are not allowed to enter the playing hall or the campus, it also meant that the player is automatically expelled from competing in the Championship.

15. HEALTH PRACTICES

15.1. Face Mask

The use of face mask shall be optional however, the organizer/official/arbiter has the right to request for the face mask to be removed in situation where the option is deemed necessary such as for identification purposes or security reasons.

15.2. Notice Boards

The Organizer/Official/Arbiter will continue to practice online announcements with pairings posted on chess-results.com. No physical notices posted in the playing area unless necessary.

15.3. Crowd Control

Non-playing spectators or coaches or players who have concluded their games, are not allowed in the playing area without obtaining the permission of the Chief Organizer, Tournament Director and/or Chief Arbiter

15.4. Medical/Health conditions

The organizer/official/arbiter has the right to remove players who are unwell, or suspected to be unwell, from playing or competing. In such a situation, the player will be requested to get medical help from a clinic/hospital - at his/her own cost and will only be allowed to resume playing once the medical condition has been cleared by the doctor.

16. OTHER MATTERS

16.1. Limitation of Liability

The Organizer of this Championship including members of the Malaysian Chess Federation, the Management and Staff of Universiti Teknikal Malaysia Melaka, Officials and Helpers and other individual members who are part of this Championship shall not be held responsible before, during or after the said event for any inconveniences that may arise, financial or time loss sustained or experienced including personal losses or issues which may include injuries or death to any of the participants or those related to or accompanying the participants for this event.

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16.2. Interpretation of these Rules and Regulations

At any time during the Championships, any issues or grounds that are not covered or any unforeseen event shall be referred to the Organizing Committee, the Tournament Director and the Chief Arbiter for interpretation and final decision.

17. INQUIRIES

Any inquiries, clarification or questions about this Championship are to be directed to the Event Secretariat as follows:

| | |
|------------------------|--|
| Organizer PIC | Persekutuan Catur Malaysia (MCF) AO/FA Najib Abdul Wahab |
| Venue Sponsor and Host | Universiti Teknikal Malaysia Melaka |
| Tournament Director | Syawal Aqmar Shahrir Ariff |
| Chief Arbiter | IA Goh Jit Siang |
| Deputy Chief Arbiter | FA Wong Qi Hao |
| Email Address | mcfsecretariat@malaysiachess.org inquiries@malaysiachess.org |
| Official Website | www.malaysiachess.org |
| Facebook | www.facebook.com/malaysianchessfederation |

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