



FIDE World Cadet & Youth
Rapid and Blitz Chess Championships

April 14th – 21st, 2026
Vrnjacka Banja, Serbia

FIDE World Cadet & Youth Rapid and Blitz Chess Championships 2026

April 14th – 21st, Vrnjacka Banja, Serbia



1. Invitation

This is the official invitation to all national chess federations, members of FIDE and eligible players to participate in the **FIDE World Cadet U8, U10, U12 & the FIDE Youth U14, U16, U18 Rapid and Blitz Chess Championships 2026**.

In total, 24 (twenty-four) championship titles will be awarded in all categories:

World Cadet U08: Rapid (Open/Boys), Rapid (Girls), Blitz (Open/Boys), Blitz (Girls)

World Cadet U10: Rapid (Open/Boys), Rapid (Girls), Blitz (Open/Boys), Blitz (Girls)

World Cadet U12: Rapid (Open/Boys), Rapid (Girls), Blitz (Open/Boys), Blitz (Girls)

World Youth U14: Rapid (Open/Boys), Rapid (Girls), Blitz (Open/Boys), Blitz (Girls)

World Youth U16: Rapid (Open/Boys), Rapid (Girls), Blitz (Open/Boys), Blitz (Girls)

World Youth U18: Rapid (Open/Boys), Rapid (Girls), Blitz (Open/Boys), Blitz (Girls)

Vrnjacka Banja is the largest and most famous spa resort in Serbia, informally called “the queen of spa tourism”. It is located 200 km south from Belgrade. Vrnjacka Banja is rich in mineral water which are known for their healing properties. The health benefits of Vrnjacka Banja’s water were first announced in time of Romans. Apart from health tourism, Vrnjacka Banja is also famous for other interesting things. Vrnjačka Banja also has the status of a chess symbol, and in the last two years the following competitions have been successfully organized at the same place:

- 2023: European Individual Championship
- 2024: European Club Cup & European Club Cup for Women
- 2025: FIDE World School Chess Championships
- 2025: FIDE World Amateur Chess Championships

2. Venue & Date

The championships will be held in Hotel “Zepter” in Vrnjacka Banja, Serbia from April 14th (arrival date) until April 21st (departure date) 2026 under the auspices of the International Chess Federation (FIDE) and Vrnjacka Banja Municipality.

The playing venue will be Hotel Zepter Conference Hall.

3. Participation Rights

3.1. Entitled to participate are chess players from National Chess Federations, according to their age category:

U08 (Open & Girls), player's date of birth: **January 1st 2018** and after

U10 (Open & Girls), player's date of birth: **January 1st 2016** and after

U12 (Open & Girls), player's date of birth: **January 1st 2014** and after

U14 (Open & Girls), player's date of birth: **January 1st 2012** and after

U16 (Open & Girls), player's date of birth: **January 1st 2010** and after

U18 (Open & Girls), player's date of birth: **January 1st 2008** and after

3.2. Each National Chess Federation can register any number of players that meet age requirements of each section. FIDE-affiliated organizations, approved by the FIDE Council, also have the right to register players. FIDE-endorsed

Chess Academies also have the right to register players through their respective National Chess Federations with copy to TRG for endorsement.

3.3. The champions (gold medalists) of the 2025 FIDE World Cadet & Youth Rapid and Blitz Chess Championships have a personal right to participate in the 2026 FIDE World Cadet & Youth Rapid and Blitz Chess Championships of the corresponding, or higher, age category if the age requirement in article 3.1 is met. Free accommodation and full board will be provided to all personal right players from April 14th to April 21st sharing a double room. Such players must also be registered through national federations of FIDE affiliated organizations or FIDE-endorsed Chess Academies

3.4. According to FIDE regulations, the participants must be accommodated by the Organizer in the official hotels. Access to playing hall and playing venue will be allowed only to persons accredited by the Organizer.

4. Schedule

Tuesday	April 14 th	All day	Arrival day
Wednesday	April 15 th	10:30	Confirmation of participation
Wednesday	April 15 th	11:00	Technical meeting
Wednesday	April 15 th	14:00	Opening ceremony
Wednesday	April 15 th	15:30	Rapid Championships Rounds 1-4
Thursday	April 16 th	10:00	Side event: Solving Championships
Thursday	April 16 th	15:30	Rapid Championships Rounds 5-7
Friday	April 17 th	15:30	Rapid Championships Rounds 8-11
Saturday	April 18 th	10:30	Free day / Side event: Team Rapid Championships
Sunday	April 19 th	15:30	Blitz Championships Rounds 1-6
Monday	April 20 th	15:30	Blitz Championships Rounds 7-11
Monday	April 20 th	21:00	Closing ceremony
Tuesday	April 21 st	All day	Departure day

5. Technical Regulations

5.1. The Championships will be held according to FIDE tournament Rules and Laws of Chess. The FIDE Anti-Cheating rules and guidelines are valid for all Championships.

5.2. Upon arrival or any time during the event, Head of delegations or players may be required to present passports for verification of players' age eligibility.

5.3. The official tournaments will be played using the Swiss System with 11 rounds. If a player doesn't have an existing FIDE rapid and blitz rating, then his/her standard rating will be used, where applicable.

Time control for the rapid championships will be 15 minutes plus 5 seconds per move starting from move one.

Time control for the blitz championships will be 5 minutes plus 3 seconds per move starting from move one.

5.4. FIDE Events Commission (EVE) can change the pairing system and/or number of the rounds of tournaments, by evaluating with the Organizer and the Chief Arbiter, due to the participant numbers.

5.5. The final ranking order of the players is determined by the number of points scored. In case of tie, the following tie break criteria are established:

- a) Direct Encounter;
- b) Buchholz cut 1;
- c) Buchholz;
- d) Number of Games Played with Black (non-played games count as played with white);
- e) Number of Games Won

5.6. Analyzing is not allowed in the playing hall. During the game, the players are not allowed to go to the analyzing room. Only the players, head of delegations and arbiters shall be allowed in the actual playing area, except those persons with the permission of the Chief Arbiter.

5.7. As long as the game is in progress a player may talk only to an arbiter or with his opponent as permitted by the Laws of Chess.

5.8. It is assumed that all the players have read the Regulations and accept to conform to them. The English text of these Regulations is the authentic version.

5.9. FIDE officials of the Championship (Chief Arbiter, Appeals Committee, FIDE Technical delegate) will be announced in due time.

5.10. Full Regulations for side events (Solving Championships and Team Rapid Championships) will be published as an Annex to this Regulations.

6. Prizes, Titles & Certificates

6.1 Titles and Prizes for Players of each Playing Group (Open/Boys and Girls)

- a) Title of World Champion for respective event + Cup + Gold Medal + Award Certificate (1st place).
- b) Cup + Silver Medal + Award Certificate (2nd place).
- c) Cup + Bronze medal + Award Certificate (3rd place).

6.2 Each participant of the official tournaments will also receive a certificate of participation.

7. Appeals procedure and Appeals Committee

7.1. The Appeals Committee consists of 3 persons, one of whom may be the FIDE Technical Delegate. Two additional reserve members will be appointed at the Technical Meeting as no member shall take part in a decision affecting a player of his own federation.

7.2. A protest against the Chief Arbiters' decisions must be submitted in writing to the Chairman of the Appeals Committee within 15 minutes after the completion of the respective game. The protest must be accompanied with the sum of 200€, as a deposit. If the appeal is granted, the sum shall be returned immediately. If the appeal is refused, the deposit is forfeited to FIDE. The Appeals Committee may also decide to refund the fee if it considers the appeal to be non-frivolous. The decisions of the Appeals Committee are final, binding, and takes effect immediately.

8. Registration and Registration Fees

For participants who has citizenship of a non-European country which has to apply for Serbian visa, request for Invitation Letter must be sent the latest on February 10th 2026.

The deadline for the registration of participants and accompanying persons is March 20th. The registration fee and hotel expenses must be paid by this deadline.

Registration is to be done through the registration form provided by the organizer.

The registration fee for the players plus FIDE fee will be 170€ in total, which must be paid to the organizers and is distributed as follows:

- 100€ (includes accreditation badge, transfer and participation certificate)
- 35€ (FIDE Rapid fee)
- 35€ (FIDE Blitz fee)

The registration fee for delegates, coaches and accompanying persons is 60€ (includes accreditation badge and transfer).

9. Travel Information

For all accredited participants and accompanying persons, the organizer will provide the transfer services from Belgrade "Nikola Tesla" airport, from Nis "Konstantin Veliki" airport and from Kraljevo "Morava" airport to the official hotels **only** on April 14th (arrivals) as well as the departure transfer on April 21st (departures) free of charge. All travel information must be sent by e-mail to **wcyrb@fide.com**, not later than April 7th, 2026.

The organizer will publish the transfer schedule and other important details 3 days prior to arrival.

10. Accommodation

All Participants are obliged to stay in official hotels and bookings must be done only through the organizers.

For players, coaches and accompanying persons, the organizer has provided official hotels with prices which are indicated below.

Daily cost of full board accommodation (buffet service for all meals, breakfast, lunch, and dinner), per person:

Hotel Zepter ****

<https://zepterhotelybanja.com/>



Double room per person, per day: 83€;

Triple room per person, per day: 76€;

Single room (limited number): 105€;

Number of rooms in Hotel "Zepter" is limited to 100 rooms and the reservation will be done on the "first come, first served" basis.

Apartments ZepterMe ****

<https://zepterme.rs/en/home/>

Luxury apartments larger than standard hotel rooms, ideal for families, are located in the annex of the "Zepter" hotel. The number of apartments is limited to 30 and the reservation will be done on the "first come, first served" basis.

Buffet service for all meals (breakfast, lunch, and dinner) will be served in Hotel Zepter.



Apartments for four persons, per person, per day: 79€

Apartments for three persons, per person, per day: 81€

Apartments for two persons, per person, per day: 83€

Studios for one person (limited number), per day: 109 €

Hotel Fontana ****

<https://fontanavrnjackabanja.com/>

Hotel "Fontana" is located 200 m to the playing hall.



Double room per person, per day: 86€;

Suite (three persons) per person, per day: 79€;

Suite (double-room, four persons) 79€ per person, per day;

Single room: 109€;

The local tourist tax (1.65€ per person, per day) and is paid to the organizer along with other expenses.

Wellness & SPA Center is free of charge for participants and accompanying persons in both of the official hotels (swimming pools, spa and gym). Individuals under the age of 16 can use these services only when accompanied by an adult and during specific times.

11. Payments

After the registration form has been filled in, sent to the organizer and approved by the organizer, the national federations will receive pro-forma invoices for bank payments. The pro-forma invoices will contain all the necessary

details for the bank payment.

The sender must pay all bank commissions.

All payments must be done before registration deadline on **March 20th, 2026** to the following account:

Account holder: **EKOMLEK DOO KRALJEVO, Grge Jankesa 5 Street, 36000 Kraljevo**

Bank: **HALKBANK A.D. BEOGRAD, Milutina Milankovica 9e, 11070 Beograd**

IBAN: **RS35155000000007215549**

SWIFT: **CABARS22**

Reference: **WCYRB 2026**

Once the bank transfer is validated, the Organizing Committee will confirm the assigned booking confirmation for all the rooms.

12. Anti-Cheating Measures

The organizer will implement strict measures to prevent any possible cheating attempts.

This implies detailed control before entering the playing hall, delayed transfer of games, control of the playing venue and prevention of any mutual verbal and non-verbal communication.

The Chief Arbiter will be encouraged to devise a system for conducting random checks during the tournament.

13. Medical Service

During the tournament, medical service will be provided for participants. Players have to insure themselves against health risks and accidents for the duration of the Championship.

It is highly recommended too all federations and/or participants to get their own Travel Health Insurance.

14. Local Information

The standard voltage in Serbia is 220 Volts.

The local currency is Dinar (RSD).

15. Visa Information

Citizens of European countries are not required to hold a visa to enter Serbia.

For participants who has citizenship of a non-European country which has to apply for Serbian visa, request for Invitation Letter must be sent the latest on February 10th 2026.

For those participants who send request after the deadline, Serbian Chess Federation will not guarantee support for visa issuing.

Requirement for visa can be checked at:

<https://www.mfa.gov.rs/en/citizens/travel-serbia/visa-regime>

16. Payment Protection

Registration fees for the late registration, withdrawal or no show shall be charged as described at Article 3.9 of <https://handbook.fide.com/chapter/D0401202312>

17. Contact Information

Official e-mail: wcyrb@fide.com

Official website: wcyrb2026.fide.com

Chairman of Organizing Committee: **Andrija Jorgic**, President of Serbian Chess Federation

Tournament Director: **IO Sasa Jevtic**, +381 63 439497 (Viber, WhatsApp)