



35thNational Under-17 OPEN & GIRLS CHESS CHAMPIONSHIPS–2026

(AICF EventCodes:465737/GJ/2026, 467172/GJ/2026)

Organized by

GUJARAT STATE CHESS ASSOCIATION

Under the aegis of

All India Chess Federation

Supported by

Ministry of Youth Affairs & Sports, Government of India

Date:30thMarch,2026 to 7thApril,2026

Venue: Rajpath Club, S.G.Highway, Ahmedabad

Total Prize Fund:Rs.9,00,000/-

:AccommodationPartner:



**The Gujarat State Co-op. Bank Ltd., Ahmedabad
(Scheduled Apex Bank)**

1. Tournament Schedule:

Particulars	Date	Day	Time
Arrival	29-Mar-2026	Sunday	12:00hrs.
Technical Meeting	30-Mar-2026	Monday	14:00hrs.
Inauguration	30-Mar-2026	Monday	14:30hrs.
Round-1	30-Mar-2026	Monday	15:00hrs.
Round-2	31-Mar-2026	Tuesday	09:30hrs.
Round-3	31-Mar-2026	Tuesday	15:00hrs.
Round-4	1-Apr-2026	Wednesday	09:30hrs.
Round-5	2-Apr-2026	Thursday	09:30hrs.
Round-6	2-Apr-2026	Thursday	15:00hrs.
Round-7	3-Apr-2026	Friday	09:30hrs.
Round-8	4-Apr-2026	Saturday	09:30hrs.
Round-9	5-Apr-2026	Sunday	09:30hrs.
Round-10	6-Apr-2026	Monday	09:30hrs.
Round-11	7-Apr-2026	Tuesday	09:30hrs.
Prize Distribution	7-Apr-2026	Tuesday	15:00hrs.
Departure	7-Apr-2026	Tuesday	18:00hrs.

2. Age Limit: Players should be born on or after 1.1.2008.

3. Age Proof: Each participant must produce a valid certificate to prove his/her age. Certificates from School will not be accepted. Certificates should preferably be from the Panchayat, Municipality or Corporation obtained soon after birth. Players without date of birth certificates will not be allowed to participate.

The date of birth certificates registered within one year of the birth of the player alone will be recognized and allowed to participate. No state association shall recommend any player who doesn't come under the above criteria.

If any doubt arises about the claimed age of a player, the Tournament Committee has the right to refer the player during the championship for a due evaluation of age by competent medical experts. A player if declared over-age by such experts shall not continue in the championship and the matter shall be reported to AICF. Protest about the age of players may be made to the Chief Arbiter in writing along with a fee of Rs.5,000/- per player. This will not be refunded. No protest about the over age of a player will be entertained after the second round of the championship.

Only the coach or manager deputed by the participating State Chess Association can lodge such protests. The Tournament Committee has the

right to decide the day, time and place for such medical evaluation of age. AICF/Organizers will have the right to refer any player to the medical evaluation of age at any time during the Championship. Players refusing to take the test as decided by the Tournament Committee shall be deemed to have failed the test and shall be disqualified from the Championship.

4. Prizes(inRs.):

PRIZES	(OPEN)	GIRLS
Champion	90,000/-	90,000/-
Runner-up	70,000/-	70,000/-
Third	58,000/-	58,000/-
Fourth	45,000/-	45,000/-
Fifth	38,000/-	38,000/-
Sixth	25,000/-	25,000/-
Seventh	22,000/-	22,000/-
Eighth	18,000/-	18,000/-
Nineth	14,000/-	14,000/-
Tenth	10,000/-	10,000/-
11thto20th	6,000/-each	6,000/-each

5. Eligibility: Subject to age limit, the following players can participate:

- a) Two players in each category from every affiliated State Association of AICF. If any association fails to send its quota, the vacancies so caused will not be filled.
- b) Top four players from 2024 National Under-17 (Open & Girls) Chess Championships are eligible to participate as seeded players in their respective categories subject to age stipulation.
- c) The top two players from 2024 National Under-15 (Open & Girls) Championships are eligible to participate as seeded players in their respective categories.
- d) The Champions from 2024 National Under-13 (Open & Girls) Chess Championships are eligible to participate as seeded players in their respective category.
- e) World Champion in any over the board category from the year 2024 subject to age stipulation.
- f) 2024 World No. 2 & 3 in Under-16 and Under-18 categories subject to age stipulation.
- g) 2024 Asian Under-18 top three rankers subject to age stipulation.
- h) 2024 Asian Under-16 Champion.
- i) The winner and runner up of 2024 National Under-17 Girls Championship are eligible to play in the open section, subject to age stipulation.
- j) The winner of 2024 National Under-15 Girls Championship is eligible to play in open section.

- k) Current over the board national champion in any higher category subject to age stipulation.
- l) All GMs/Imms are seeded in the Open Section and all WGMs/WIMs are seeded in Girls' Section subject to age stipulation.
- m) Any other player who remits the prescribed special entry fee of 6,250/-. Such entries should come through the respective affiliated State Association.
- n) Host Gujarat State Chess Association is entitled to fill one additional player in each category.
- o) The AICF Secretary has a discretionary seat in each category in this Championship.
- p) Two players in each category approved by AICF will be permitted from areas where no State Association exists.
- q) If the number of participants at the start of the championship is an odd number in a category, the host association can add one entry to make it even.
- r) Only Indian nationals are eligible to participate in the championships.
- s) In addition to the above, three additional entries from the state which won gold, two entries from the state which won the silver and one additional entry from the state which won the bronze in the Under-17 (Open & Girls) Chess Championships 2024 shall be accepted. **Open:** Telangana (Gold) 3, Kerala (Silver) 2, Maharashtra (Bronze) 1. **Girls:** Tamil Nadu (Gold) 3, Telangana (Silver) 2 & Kerala (Bronze) 1. And these entries from the state associations shall be given only from the rank list of their respective state championships with proof and not to anybody else.

6. Dress Code: As per the AICF regulations on dress code for players participating in all the National championships, all state associations should send their players including special/donor entry players with proper uniform (as regards special/donor entry players, the respective state chess associations may collect the cost of the uniform from the players). Players should at least wear uniform T- Shirts/formal shirts (same color and brand with the name of the State printed prominently at the back and the state chess emblem in the front left side). The name/logo of the sponsors can be permitted. Girls/Women have also to be given appropriate uniform. The above rule will also be applicable to special units. Players without proper uniform will not be permitted to take part in the championship. This will be strictly enforced.

7. Entries/Entry Fee: All entries including special entries should come through the concerned state association. However, AICF will have the right to accept or reject any entry without assigning any reason. The entry form should be sent together with an attested copy of the original date of birth certificate (birth Certificates from Panchayat/Municipality/Corporation only will be accepted).

Entry Fee Structure:

Ordinary Entry:Rs.1,250/- (Rupees one thousand two hundred fifty only)

Special Entry: Rs.6,250/- (Rupees six thousand two hundred fifty only)

There will be a 50% concession in the entry fee for the participants from north eastern states and Andaman & Nicobar Islands.

Entry fee will be accepted strictly online through: <https://prs.aicf.in/entry>

For clarification and guidance regarding submission of entries, please contact: aicfnationalentries@gmail.com

- 8. Late Fee:** Please note that the entry fee structure is valid till 16thMarch,2026.Thereafter, a late fee of 250/-per player will be levied. No entry will be entertained after 23rdMarch, 2026 (up to 18:00 hrs.).
- 9. System of Play:** The championship will be played under FIDE's Laws of Chess and the Swiss system. Totally, eleven rounds shall be played. Players from the same state shall not be paired against eachother in the last round.

However, they may be paired if there is no compatible opponent with the same point group or score group with a maximum difference of one point. It is applicable only for the top 50% score of the penultimate round.

- 10. Default Time:** Default time for arriving to the chess board is 15 minutes.
- 11. Time Control:** The rate of play shall be 90 minutes with an increment of 30 seconds per move from move number one.
- 12. Chess Clocks:** Each participating State Chess Association must provide at least one clock in working order for every two players entered in to the championship.
- 13. Tie Break:** Following is the order of tie-break:
- (a)** Buchholz Cut1
 - (b)** Buchholz
 - (c)** Sonneborn Berger
 - (d)** Direct encounter
 - (e)** The greater number of wins(forfeit included)
 - (f)** The greater number of wins by black
- In case of tie, cash prizes will not be shared.

14. **Draw Agreement:** Players shall not agree for a draw without the consent of the arbiter, before each player makes 30 moves.
15. **Protest:** Protest, if any, against the decision of the Chief Arbiter shall be made in writing with a protest fee of Rs 3,000/- within 30 minutes of the occurrence of the incident. The protest fee will be refunded if the appeal is upheld.
16. **Appeals Committee:** Before the commencement of the tournament, a five-member appeals committee shall be formed by the AICF/organizers. All the members and reserves shall be from different states. No member of the Committee can vote on a dispute in which a player from his own state is involved and, in such case(s) the reserve member(s) shall take his/her place in the committee.
17. **Tournament Committee:** The organizers will form a tournament committee for the smooth conduct of the national championship.
18. **Interpretation:** For interpretation of the rule(s) and deciding any point not covered by the above rules of the tournament, the decision of the Tournament Committee shall be final and binding on all. The Tournament Committee has every right to make any addition or amendment to these rules, without notice. However, such changes/or inclusion will be subject to AICF clearance. Such changes will, however, be displayed in the tournament hall.
19. **Withdrawal:** If any player withdraws from the last two rounds in any national championship on medical grounds, he/she should undergo treatment by a doctor recommended and supervised by the tournament committee. The entry fee, once paid, shall not be refunded if the withdrawal from the championship is done after the publication of the first-round pairings.
20. **Disqualification:** No participant will leave the venue before the prize distribution function without the permission of the Chief Arbiter. The participants disregarding this rule will be suspended for one year.
21. **Registration of Players with AICF:** All participants in the National Championship shall be registered with AICF for the year 2025-2026 before the registration on AICF Online portal for the entries. Online AICF registration can be done at the website www.aicf.in/players
22. **Arrears:** All arrears of affiliation fee/tournament fee including those of current year must be cleared by the affiliated association at the time of submitting the entries; otherwise, the entries are liable to be rejected.
23. **Electronic Devices:** All electronic items including wrist watches (all type of watches) are not allowed in the tournament hall. Players in possession of such items will be declared lost.

- 24. Accommodation:** Free dormitory accommodation will be provided to all the selected and seeded players (ordinary entries) and one manager from each state nominated by the concerned State Chess Association. The address of accommodation for selected/seeded players (ordinary entries) is GSC Bank, Sahakar Bhavan, 132' ring road, Nr. Pallav Cross Road, Nr. Ankur Jain Temple, Naranpura, Ahmedabad. **For assistance contact Mr.Prashant Raval (M) 9033206772 or Mr.Amit Parikh (M) 9898087374.**

Accompanying persons and special entries have to make their own arrangements however if they want to avail accommodation facility, they may contact **Mr. Ankit Dalal (M)7878860008** on or before 15th March, 2026.

- 25. Boarding:** A lump sum of Rs.1,500/- (Rupees one thousand five hundred only) will be paid by the organizers towards the boarding expenses, only to the affiliated State Associations' seeded and selected players who play this championship under normal entry fee.

OrganizingCommittee

Dev A Patel
Secretary, All India Chess Federation
President, Gujarat State Chess Association

Krishna Gadhiya
Secretary, Gujarat State Chess Association

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