15th NATIONAL SCHOOLS CHESS CHAMPIONSHIPS-2026

Date :
16th to 20th December, 2026

AICF EVENT CODES

U07 Open | U09 Open | U11 Open | U13 Open | U15 Open | U17 Open
502253 | 502251 | 502249 | 502247 | 502245 | 502243/GJ/2026

U07 Girls | U09 Girls | U11 Girls | U13 Girls | U15 Girls | U17 Girls
502254 | 502252 | 502250 | 502248 | 502246 | 502244/GJ/2026

Organized by
GUJARAT STATE CHESS ASSOCIATION

In Association with
ALL INDIA CHESS FEDERATION

: Tournament Venue :
Veer Savarkar Sports Complex (Centrally Air Conditioned),
Nr. Vardan Tower, Naranpura, Ahmedabad

Total Cash Prize Fund:
Rs.5,04,000/-

2. Schedule:

Date	Time	Round
16-Dec-2026	0900 hrs.	Inauguration/Managers Meeting
16-Dec-2026	1030 hrs.	Round-1
16-Dec-2026	1600 hrs.	Round-2
17-Dec-2026	0930 hrs.	Round-3
17-Dec-2026	1530 hrs.	Round-4
18-Dec-2026	0930 hrs.	Round-5
18-Dec-2026	1530 hrs.	Round-6
19-Dec-2026	0930 hrs.	Round-7
19-Dec-2026	1530 hrs.	Round-8
20-Dec-2026	0930 hrs.	Round-9
20-Dec-2026	1530 hrs.	Prize Distribution

3. Eligibility for Participation:

Only individuals who are school students and who are Indian nationals are eligible to participate in this Championship. Players who are foreign nationals, and who are with PIO or OCI card cannot participate.

i. All entries should be strictly routed through the respective AICF affiliated state chess association. No direct entries shall be entertained in any circumstances. Each State

ii. Association or School Association or School may enter an unlimited number of players in each of the 12 age groups. The player should be a bona-fide student at a school (any syllabus). In case that one girl group is less than 10 participants then it will be merged with the same open age group category.

iii. Entitled to participate are players (Boys & Girls) who shall not have reached the age of 07, 09, 11, 13, 15 and 17 before 1st January 2027.
a) Under 07: Born on or after 1st January, 2020
b) Under 09: Born on or after 1st January, 2018
c) Under 11: Born on or after 1st January, 2016
d) Under 13: Born on or after 1st January, 2014
e) Under 15: Born on or after 1st January, 2012
f) Under 17: Born on or after 1st January, 2010

iv. **Since there is no separate National School Chess Championship for Under 5/6, players for the Under 5/6 Asian School Chess Championship 2027, will be identified as per rankings from among the participants in the National School Under-7 Chess Championship 2026. Subject to their age. Therefore, those planning to participate in the Asian Youth Under 5/6 - 2027 (if held) should participate in the National School Under–7 Chess Championship 2026 to be eligible for consideration. **

The above-mentioned age category cut-offs have been kept in accordance with the Asian and World Age Group Championships scheduled to be held in 2027.

4. Age Proof:

Each participant must produce a valid certificate to prove his/her age. Certificates from School are not 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 child 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. 5000/- per player. This will not be refunded.

No protest about over age of a player will be entertained after the 2 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.

5. Prizes:

The cash prizes will be awarded to 12 (twelve) players in each category amounting to Rs.5,04,000/- (Rs. five lakhs four thousand only) as given below:

Rank	Prizes (Open)	Prizes (Girls)
1st	Rs.10,000/-	Rs.10,000/-
2nd	Rs.7,000/-	Rs.7,000/-
3rd	Rs.6,000/-	Rs.6,000/-
4th	Rs.5,000/-	Rs.5,000/-
5th	Rs.4,000/-	Rs.4,000/-
6th	Rs.3,000/-	Rs.3,000/-

7th	Rs.2,000/-	Rs.2,000/-
8th to 12th	Rs.1,000/-	Rs.1,000/-

6. Dress Code:

As per AICF regulations on the 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. The girls/women are also given appropriate uniform dress. 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. Registration:

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 attested copy of original date of birth certificate (Birth Certificates from Panchayat/Municipality/Corporation only accepted).

Entry fee: Rs.1,500/- (One thousand five hundred only)

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

Entry fee will be accepted strictly online through: https://prs.aicf.in/entry (Please use Debit/Credit Card or Net Banking **and avoid UPI, QR or SCAN**). For further 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 2nd December, 2026. Thereafter a late fee of Rs.250/- per player will be levied. No entry will be accepted after 9th December, 2026 (up to 18:00 hrs.).

Players should come with the below mentioned documents:
(1) Passport size photo
(2) Original date of birth certificate
(3) AICF certificate (if medical test qualified)
(4) Payment proof

(5) The certificate from the school mentioning that he/she is a bonafide student of the school

9. System of Play:

The Championship will be played under FIDE Laws of Chess and the Swiss system. Totally 9 rounds shall be played in each category. In case that one girl group has less than 10 participants then it will be merged with the same age group open category.

Players from the same state shall not be paired against each other in the last round. However, they may be paired if there is no compactible opponent with the same point group or score group with the maximum difference of 1 point. It is applicable only for the top 50% score of the penultimate round.

10. Default Time:

Default timing for arriving to the chess board is 15 minutes. Those who arrive at the board 15 minutes after the start of the game will be declared lost.

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 the Championship.

13. Tie-Break:

Following is the order of Tie-Break:
(a) Buchholz Cut-1
(b) Buchholz
(c) Sonneborn Berger
(d) Direct encounter
(e) The greater number of wins (forfeit included)
(f) Number of wins with black pieces
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:

Protests, if any, against the decision of the Chief Arbiter, shall be made in writing with a protest fee of Rs.3,000/- (Rupees three thousand only) within one hour of the occurrence of the incident. The amount shall 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 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. The decision of the Appeals Committee is final and binding on players concerned.

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 rules of the tournament, the decision of the Tournament Director shall be final and binding on all. The Tournament Director has every right to make any addition or amendment to these rules without prior notice. However, such changes or inclusion will be subject to AICF & GSCA clearance. Such changes, however, will be displayed at the Championship venue.

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. After the 1st round pairing is published, the entry fee will not be refunded.

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. AICF Registration:

All participants in the National Championship should be registered with AICF for the year 2026-2027. Online AICF registration is available on the website www.aicf.in. Those who have paid the AICF Registration fee but are yet to receive the AICF registration card should send a photocopy of

the acknowledgment for having paid the fee to organizers of earlier tournaments or to their association. Before the start of the championship all the players must be registered with AICF for the year 2026-2027. No entry will be accepted without AICF Player's Registration for 2026-2027.

22. Electronic Devices:

All electronic items including wrist watches (all type of watches) are not allowed in the tournament hall. If a player is found to possess a mobile (switched on/off)/wristwatch, either on the person or in a separate bag, he will be declared as lost. Player wearing any kind of watch during the game will also be declared lost.

23. Accommodation:

Players and accompanying persons are required to make their own arrangements for accommodation. We understand the importance of a comfortable and convenient stay for all participants and their parents. The Naranpura area of Ahmedabad, where the event will be held, offers a wide range of hotel options to suit diverse preferences and budgets.

For those seeking a luxurious experience, several reputed star-category hotels in and around the city offer premium services and amenities. Additionally, numerous mid-range and budget-friendly accommodations are available near the venue.

Participants are encouraged to explore online booking platforms to browse available options, compare prices, and read reviews to make an informed choice that best meets their needs.

When selecting accommodation, one of the key factors to consider is the proximity to Tournament Venue. Online platforms also provide details on hotel distances from the venue, helping participants minimize travel time and maximize convenience.

To ensure a stress-free and enjoyable experience, we strongly recommend securing your preferred accommodation well in advance.

Before finalizing your booking, please check the hotel ratings, tariffs, distances, and reviews through online resources (such as Google or trusted travel websites).

We warmly welcome all players, parents, and officials to Ahmedabad, Gujarat for a memorable and competitive National School Chess Championship 2026!

: FOR ASSISTANCE PLEASE CONTACT :

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