



FIDE World School Chess Championships 2025

March 19th – 29th, 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 School Chess Championships 2025** (categories for boys/open and girls under 7, 9, 11, 13, 15 and 17 years old). The championships will be held in Vrnjacka Banja, Serbia from March 19th to 29th 2025 under the auspices of the International Chess Federation (FIDE) and Vrnjacka Banja Municipality.

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 that it 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

2. Venue, Date & Schedule

The championship will be held in Hotel “Zepter”, Vrnjacka Banja, Serbia, from March 19th (arrival date) until March 29th (departure date) 2025. The playing venue will be Hotel Zepter Conference Hall.

Schedule:

Wednesday	March 19 th	All day	Arrival day
Thursday	March 20 th	10:30	Technical meeting
Thursday	March 20 th	14:00	Opening ceremony
Thursday	March 20 th	15:30	Round 1
Friday	March 21 st	15:30	Round 2
Saturday	March 22 th	10:00	Round 3
Saturday	March 22 th	16:30	Round 4
Sunday	March 23 th	All day	Free day
Monday	March 24 th	15:30	Round 5
Tuesday	March 25 th	15:30	Round 6
Wednesday	March 26 th	15:30	Round 7
Thursday	March 27 th	15:30	Round 8
Friday	March 28 th	14:30	Round 9
Friday	March 28 th	21:30	Closing ceremony
Saturday	March 29 th	All day	Departure day

3. Technical Regulations

3.1. FIDE rated Swiss system will be used with 9 rounds played. The Championships shall be governed by the General Regulations for FIDE Competitions.

3.2. There shall be 6 categories: Under 07, Under 09, Under 11, Under 13, Under 15 and Under 17 with separate events for Boys/Open and Girls (in total 12 championships).

Entitled to participate in each category are:

- Under 07: Players born on or after January 1st 2018,
- Under 09: Players born on or after January 1st 2016,
- Under 11: Players born on or after January 1st 2014,
- Under 13: Players born on or after January 1st 2012,
- Under 15: Players born on or after January 1st 2010,
- Under 17: Players born on or after January 1st 2008.

3.3. Each National Federation can register any number of players that meet the age requirements of each section. FIDE-affiliated organizations, as 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 Federation with copy to Trainers Commission for endorsement.

3.4. Players with personal rights of qualification, are entitled to free board and lodging for 10 nights sharing a double room. Personal rights are valid for:

- The Champions of the previous World School Championships
- The Continental School Champions of the year preceding this edition.

3.5. Time control is 90 minutes plus 30 seconds increment from move one.

3.6. Default time is 15 minutes. Any player who arrives at the chessboard after the default time shall lose the game unless the Chief Arbiter decides otherwise.

3.7. The final ranking order of the players is determined by the number of points scored. If two or more players are tied for the first place or for any prize, the tie shall be broken in the following order:

- a. Direct Encounter points (applies only if all tied players have played each other),
- b. Buchholz Cut 1,
- c. Buchholz,
- d. Greater Number of Wins with Black Pieces,
- e. Greater Number of Wins.
- f. Rating Performance

4. Prizes, Titles & Certificates

4.1. The top three participants in each category will receive a trophy, medal, diploma and a special award.

4.2. All participants will receive a gift from the organizer and a certificate of participation.

4.3. The Direct titles shall be awarded according to the conditions in the FIDE to regulations below.

<https://handbook.fide.com/chapter/B01DirectTitles2017>

<https://handbook.fide.com/chapter/B012022>

5. Appeals procedure and Appeals Committee

5.1. 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.

5.2. A protest against the Chief Arbiters' decisions must be submitted in writing to the Chairman of the Appeals Committee within one hour 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.

5.3. The decision of the Appeals Committee is final, binding, and takes effect immediately.

6. 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 January 31st 2025.

The deadline for the registration of participants and accompanying persons is Friday, February 28th. The registration fee and hotel expenses must be paid by this deadline.

Registration is to be done through the form provided in the attachment.

The registration fee for the players plus FIDE fee will be 140€ in total, which must be paid to the organizers and is distributed as follows:

- 100€ (includes accreditation badge and transfer)
- 40€ (FIDE fee)

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

7. 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 on March 19th as well as the departure transfer on March 29th free of charge. All travel information must be sent by e-mail to worldschool@fide.com, not later than March 12th, 2025.

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

8. 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 and include full board accommodation (buffet service for all meals, breakfast, lunch, and dinner).

Hotel Zepter ****

<https://zepterhotelvbanja.com/>



Double room per person, per day: 75€;

Triple room per person, per day: 72€;

Single room (limited number): 97€;

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

Hotel Fontana ****

<https://fontanavrnjackabanja.com/>

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



Double room per person, per day: 79€;

Suite (three persons) per person, per day: 75€;

Suite (double-room, four persons) 75€ per person, per day;

Single room: 99€;

The local tourist tax (1.60€ per person, per day) is to be paid directly by accompanying persons at the hotel reception. For players, this fee will be covered by the organizer.

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.

9. 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 February 28th, 2025 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: **RS3515500000007215549**

SWIFT: **CABARS22**

Reference: **WSCC 2025**

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

10. 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.

11. Medical Service

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

12. Local Information

The standard voltage in Serbia is 220 Volts.

The local currency is Dinar (RSD).

13. 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 January 31st 2025.

Requirement for visa can be checked at:

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

14. 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>

15. Contact Information

Official e-mail: worldschool@fide.com

Official website: worldschool2025.fide.com

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

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