



## 2025 MOMBASA OPEN INTERNATIONAL CHESS CHAMPIONSHIP, LIGHT INTERNATIONAL ACADEMY, MOMBASA

10<sup>TH</sup>-12<sup>TH</sup> OCTOBER, 2025 – OPEN AND UNDER 1700 RATED SECTION  
11<sup>TH</sup>-OCTOBER, 2025- JUNIOR SECTION

# INVITATION

Mombasa Chess Club in collaboration with the Chess Kenya Federation and Light International School, invite all Chess players to participate in the 2025 Mombasa Open International Chess Championship scheduled to take place from 10th to 12th October 2025 (Open ,Ladies & Under 1700 Sections) & 11<sup>th</sup> October,2025 for the Junior Section at Light International School, Mombasa.



Athena trophy, engraved with names of previous winners from 2012



Light International School, Mombasa



2024 Mombasa Open Championship, click below to view photos  
<https://photos.app.goo.gl/KNKPKSx6Cayb88mt5>



Enjoy the sandy beaches of Mombasa

# SCHEDULE

## 1. OPEN, LADIES & UNDER 1700 SECTION (6 ROUNDS, 90 MIN + 30 SEC INCREMENT)

Day	Time	Program
Friday, 10th Oct	9:00 AM – 9:45 AM	Opening & Technical Briefing
Friday, 10th Oct	10:00 AM	Round 1
Friday, 10th Oct	3:00 PM	Round 2
Saturday, 11th Oct	9:00 AM	Round 3
Saturday, 11th Oct	2:00 PM	Round 4
Sunday, 12th Oct	8:00 AM	Round 5
Sunday, 12th Oct	1:00 PM	Round 6
Sunday, 12th Oct	5:00 PM	Closing Ceremony & Prize Giving

## 2. JUNIOR SECTION (30+0 TIME CONTROL | 6 ROUNDS)

Date: Saturday, 11th October 2025

Time Control: 30 minutes per player (1 hour per game)

Day	Time	Program
Saturday, 11th Oct	8:00 AM – 8:30 AM	Opening & Technical Briefing
Saturday, 11th Oct	8:30 AM – 9:30 AM	Round 1
Saturday, 11th Oct	9:45 AM – 10:45 AM	Round 2
Saturday, 11th Oct	11:00 AM – 12:00 PM	Round 3
Saturday, 11th Oct	12:00 PM – 1:00 PM	Lunch Break
Saturday, 11th Oct	1:00 PM – 2:00 PM	Round 4
Saturday, 11th Oct	2:15 PM – 3:15 PM	Round 5
Saturday, 11th Oct	3:30 PM – 4:30 PM	Round 6
Saturday, 11th Oct	5:00 PM	Closing Ceremony & Prize Giving

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### 3. PARTICIPATION

Mombasa Open International Chess Championship brings a unique combination of high-level chess competition and a relaxed, holiday-friendly atmosphere that caters for all participants from beginner, intermediate and advanced player. The champions are hosted at the same venue with demarcation of sections, fostering a strong sense of community, interaction, and convenience.

#### **3.1 OPEN SECTION**

This section is a Chess Kenya Federation approved **Grand prix event** and it is open to all players. The section forms part of grand prix series of tournament that will be used to select players who will represent Kenya in World Olympiad and other world championship events. The Prize Fund for this section is **KES 200,000**.

The winner of Open section is declared the winner of Mombasa Open International Chess Championship and name engraved in official Tournament trophy.

#### **3.2 UNDER 1700 SECTION**

This category is designed for players rated below 1700, offering a competitive yet accessible environment for both juniors and adults seeking to grow their skills. It specifically targets players, who are working to gain tournament experience, improve their ratings, and build confidence in serious chess competitions. The section provides an ideal platform for learning, testing strategies, and measuring progress against similarly rated opponents.

The Prize Fund for this Section is **KES 50,000**.

*In the event of a tie, the cash prize will be equally shared among the tied players.*

#### **3.3 JUNIOR SECTION (OCTOBER 11<sup>TH</sup>, 2025)**

The Junior Section is specially organized for young players, in the following categories, (U8, U10, U12, U14, U16, and U18). It provides a fun, structured, and competitive environment where juniors can gain valuable tournament experience. This section is ideal for school-going children and beginners, helping them develop confidence and sharpen skills. It also serves as a stepping stone for those aiming to transition into higher-level competitions in the future.

- Top 3 players in each age category will receive trophies and shopping vouchers.
- Best Primary and High School teams will each be awarded a trophy

*Certificate of participation will be awarded to all the players*

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## 4. REGISTRATION AND ENTRY FEES

The entry fees for the 2025 Mombasa Open International Chess Championship are as follows:

- **Corporate Clubs:** KES 3,000 per player
- **University Clubs:** KES 2,500 per player
- **Individuals:** KES 2,000 per player
- **Junior Section:** KES 1,000 per player

### 4.1 PAYMENT METHOD & REGISTRATION

Kindly make payments via **M-PESA** using the following details:

- Go to **Lipa na M-PESA > Buy Goods and Services**
- Enter **Till Number: 650270 (Mombasa Chess Club)**

#### **Registration Deadline:**

All players must complete registration **on or before 5th October 2025**.

*Note: Late registrations are not guaranteed, as the Organizer reserves the right of admission.*

#### **International Players**

For participants outside Kenya, the entry fee is **USD 50**, payable at the venue. Please send your registration details to:-

[mombasacountychessclub@gmail.com](mailto:mombasacountychessclub@gmail.com) by **5th October 2025**.

#### **Registration Link**

All participants must complete their registration using the link below:

<https://mchessacademy.co.ke/tournaments> .

## 5. TOURNAMENT RULES & REGULATIONS

This is a FIDE-rated tournament; therefore, all FIDE rules and regulations apply.

### **5.1 Default Time (Walk-over Time)**

- All rounds will have a standard default time of 30 minutes.
- The default time will be counted from the moment the Chief Arbiter announces the start of the round, not based on the clock time for each individual game.
- The Chief Arbiter will also announce when the default time has elapsed.

### **5.2 Draw Conditions**

- Players are not allowed to agree to a draw before Black has completed their 30th move.

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- This restriction only applies to draws by mutual agreement.
  - Draws resulting from threefold repetition (Article 9.2) or fivefold repetition (Article 9.6) of the position, as per FIDE Laws of Chess, are allowed at any time.

### 5.3 Electronic Devices

- Players are strictly prohibited from using electronic devices (phones, smartwatches, tablets, etc.) in the playing hall during their games.
- All electronic devices must be submitted to the Chief Arbiter before the start of the round.
- Arbiters may only use electronic devices necessary for arbitration.
- Penalty: A player found in possession of any electronic device (switched on or off) during a game will immediately lose the game.
- If the player has already completed their game, they will not be paired in the next round.
- Additional disciplinary action, including removal from the tournament, may be recommended by the Appeals Committee under FIDE Anti-Cheating regulations.

### 5.4 Pairings, Scoring & Tie-Breaks

The tournament will use the Swiss System for all sections.

Scoring:

- Win = 1 point
- Draw = ½ point
- Loss = 0 point

Tie-Break Criteria (in order of application):

- Direct Encounter (among tied players)
- Buchholz Tie-Break (with one lowest score cut)
- Buchholz Tie-Break (no cut)
- Sonneborn-Berger
- Number of Wins (including forfeits and byes)

Players who miss two rounds without notifying the Chief Arbiter will be automatically withdrawn from the tournament.

### 5.5 Recording Sheets

- The score sheet is the property of the tournament organizers. A duplicate copy will be provided to the players.
- Upon completion of a game, both players must sign the score sheets and hand them over to the arbiter.

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## 5.6 Playing Area Regulations

- Access to the playing area is restricted and allowed only with permission from the arbiters.
- Players may only leave the playing area with the arbiter's permission. Unauthorized absence may attract penalties under FIDE Articles 11 and 12.
- No player may communicate (inside or outside the playing hall) with other players or spectators while their game is ongoing.
- Violation of this rule may result in penalties under the FIDE Anti-Cheating regulations.
- Once a player has completed their game and the result has been recorded:
- They may be allowed a short grace period to observe other games with arbiter approval.
- When asked to leave by an arbiter, they must exit the playing hall immediately.
- Players must not leave their board before submitting the result to the arbiter.
- An analysis area will be available; boards can be provided upon request to the Chief Arbiter.

## 5.7 Appeal Procedure

- An Appeals Committee will be formed and announced before the start of Round 1.
- To lodge an appeal, a player must:
- Submit their appeal to the Chief Arbiter within 15 minutes after the game ends.
- Pay an appeal fee of KES 2,000, which is refundable if the appeal is successful.

Appeals cannot be made for games in which the player has already signed the score sheet.

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Note: The tournament organizers reserve the right to amend the rules and regulations. Any changes will be communicated in a timely manner.



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## ORGANIZERS CONTACT

For any inquiries or further assistance, please feel free to reach out to the tournament officials below:

### **Tournament Director**

**Paul Ombui Onkeo**

✉ Email: [mombasacountychessclub@gmail.com](mailto:mombasacountychessclub@gmail.com)

☎ Phone (Call/Text/WhatsApp): +254 726 216 370

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### **Chief Arbiter**

**Tony Sembei (FIDE International Arbiter[C] & International Organizer)**

☎ Phone (Call/Text/WhatsApp): +254 720 442 627

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### **Mombasa Chess Club – Chairperson**

**Samuel Macharia**

☎ Phone (Call/Text/WhatsApp): +254 700 575 653