Christmas Chess Tournament for Children and Juniors

Official regulations for the rapid chess competition

DATE	CITY	TIME CONTROL	ROUNDS	RATING
12 Dec 2026 (Sat)	Karlovo	15 min + 5 sec/move	7 rounds	FIDE Rapid

01. ORGANISER AND VENUE

Organiser: Asenovets 2006 Chess Club, Asenovgrad, with the assistance and support of Karlovo Municipality.

Venue: Karlovo. The organisers will announce the exact venue and address before the tournament.

02. AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

- Promote chess among children and juniors in the region and across the country.
- Help players gain competitive experience, improve their skills and obtain an international rapid chess rating (FIDE Rapid).
- Encourage fair play, discover young talent and create a festive sporting atmosphere.

03. ELIGIBILITY AND AGE GROUPS

The tournament is open to all registered and unregistered players from Bulgaria and abroad who are under 18 on the tournament date (12 December 2026), i.e. born after 12 December 2008. All players compete in a single Under-18 Open tournament, with separate standings by age group and gender.

- Boys and girls under 8 (U8) — born after 12 December 2018.
- Boys and girls under 10 (U10) — born after 12 December 2016.
- Boys and girls under 12 (U12) — born after 12 December 2014.
- Boys and girls under 14 (U14) — born after 12 December 2012.
- Boys and girls under 16 (U16) — born after 12 December 2010.
- Boys and girls under 18 (U18) — born after 12 December 2008.

04. TOURNAMENT FORMAT, TIME CONTROL AND RATING

The competition is played over seven rounds using the Swiss system. Pairings are generated using Swiss-Manager, a FIDE-licensed program. The tournament will be submitted for FIDE Rapid rating.

Time control: Each player has 15 minutes for the game, plus a 5-second increment per move from move one (15′ + 5″).

Default time: Any player who fails to arrive at the board within 15 minutes of the announced start of the round forfeits the game, unless the Chief Arbiter decides otherwise.

05. LAWS OF CHESS, FAIR PLAY AND TIE-BREAKS

The tournament follows the current FIDE Laws of Chess, including Appendix A on rapid chess. Mobile phones, smartwatches and other electronic devices may not be brought into or used in the playing hall without the Chief Arbiter's express permission. If a device is found switched on or in use during a game, the player forfeits the game in accordance with FIDE rules.

Scoring: A win earns 1 point, a draw ½ point and a loss 0 points. Final standings are based on total points. In the event of a tie, the following FIDE tie-breaks are applied in order:

No.	Tie-break	FIDE code
1	Buchholz Cut 1 (excluding the lowest score)	BH-C1
2	Buchholz	BH
3	Sonneborn–Berger	SB
4	Direct Encounter between players tied on points	DE
5	Number of Wins	WIN

06. TOURNAMENT SCHEDULE (12 DECEMBER 2026)

Time	Activity / Stage
09:30 – 10:00	Registration and attendance confirmation at the venue
10:00 – 10:15	Technical briefing and publication of Round 1 pairings
10:15 – 10:30	Official opening
10:30	Round 1
11:30	Round 2
12:30	Round 3
13:30 – 14:00	Lunch break
14:00	Round 4
15:00	Round 5
16:00	Round 6
17:00	Round 7
18:00	Official awards ceremony and tournament closing

Note: At the 15′ + 5″ time control, 60 minutes are allocated per round, including time for entering results and preparing pairings. Times after Round 1 are approximate. If games finish earlier or later, the next round starts as soon as the pairings are announced.

07. PRIZE FUND AND AWARDS

Total guaranteed prize fund: €2,500 — Overall: €1,300 • Age groups: €900 • Local players (Karlovo Municipality): €300

A. Overall standings (total: €1,300)

Place	Award	Cash prize
1st place	Tournament champion’s trophy and gold medal	€450
2nd place	Silver medal	€275
3rd place	Bronze medal	€225
4th place	—	€150
5th place	—	€110
6th place	—	€90

B. Age-group prizes (total: €900)

Age group	1st place boys	1st place girls	Awards
U8 (under 8)	€50	€50	Gold medal (B / G)
U10 (under 10)	€60	€60	Gold medal (B / G)
U12 (under 12)	€70	€70	Gold medal (B / G)
U14 (under 14)	€80	€80	Gold medal (B / G)
U16 (under 16)	€90	€90	Gold medal (B / G)
U18 (under 18)	€100	€100	Gold medal (B / G)

C. Special prizes for local players from Karlovo Municipality (total: €300)

To encourage local talent, cash prizes and medals go to the highest-placed boy and girl from Karlovo Municipality in each age group, provided they do not receive an overall or age-group prize.

Age group	Best boy	Best girl	Awards
U8 (under 8)	€25	€25	Medal (B / G)
U10 (under 10)	€25	€25	Medal (B / G)
U12 (under 12)	€25	€25	Medal (B / G)
U14 (under 14)	€25	€25	Medal (B / G)

Age group	Best boy	Best girl	Awards
U16 (under 16)	€25	€25	Medal (B / G)
U18 (under 18)	€25	€25	Medal (B / G)

D. Prize conditions

- Cash prizes are not shared between players tied on points. Final placings are determined entirely by the tie-breaks.
- Each player may receive only one cash prize. If a player qualifies for more than one, the higher-value prize is awarded, with overall and age-group prizes taking priority over local prizes.
- If a local player wins an overall or age-group prize, the local prize for that age group and gender goes to the next highest-placed eligible local player.
- Cash prizes are paid only to players who attend the official awards ceremony in person.

08. REGISTRATION, ENTRY FEE AND ARBITERS

Entry fee: €20 per player, payable at registration on the day or by bank transfer once confirmed by the organisers.

Registration: Enter in advance by emailing k.bilyal@outlook.com with the following required information:

1. Player’s full name (all three names);
2. Exact date of birth (day, month, year);
3. FIDE ID (if applicable);
4. Chess federation (country);
5. Current FIDE Rapid rating (if any);
6. Chess club / town or city;
7. Category: boys or girls;
8. Telephone number and email address of a parent, guardian or coach.

> **Chief Arbiter: FA Kyamran Bilyal • Registration and enquiries: k.bilyal@outlook.com**
> The organisers reserve the right to amend these regulations if circumstances warrant. Participants will be notified in good time.