



Douro Blitz Cruise 2026

Maia International Chess Festival

August 20th, 2026 | Cais de Gaia



Organization

The Maia Chess Academy presents, within the scope of the Maia International Chess Festival 2026, Douro Blitz Cruise 2026 — a unique Blitz tournament played on a rabelo boat operated by the company Rota do Douro on the Douro River, with stunning views over Porto's Ribeira and Vila Nova de Gaia. An experience that combines Chess competition with the charm of the UNESCO World Heritage site.

Location

Address Av. de Diogo Leite 135, 4400 Vila Nova de Gaia

Map <https://maps.app.goo.gl/TNHF8AuJPS1hVyuj8>



Participants

The tournament is open to all players, regardless of age, upon registration through the form on the tournament website <https://axm.pt/registrations/>. Information via email maiachessfestival@axm.pt. The event is limited to 60 players and registrations can be made, at the latest, up to one hour before the start of the tournament (15:00).

Registration

Player Registration

	General	Maia Chess Open players	Groups >5
Until July 30 th , 2026	60.00€	50.00€	50.00€
Until August 20 th , 2026	70.00€	60.00€	60.00€

Passenger Registration

It is possible to register passengers who wish to join the trip without playing in the tournament.

	Until July 30 th , 2026	Until August 20 th , 2026
Price	40.00€	50.00€

Players with a GM title are exempt from the registration fee.

Registration is only valid after payment of the registration fee to Academia de Xadrez da Maia via IBAN PT50 0010 0000 5839 7720 0015 0 or via Wise transfer to IBAN BE05 9676 0506 7875.



Proof of payment must be submitted on the tournament website at <https://axm.pt/registrations/>.

An open bar with drinks is included in the registration fee (drinks limited to the available stock).



System

The tournament will be played in Swiss system with 7 rounds. Each player will have 3 minutes to complete the game, with 2 seconds increment per move.

Pairings will be made on board, after the boat departs, including only the players present.

Once a game is finished, players must leave the playing area.

Schedule

Time	Event
16:00	Boarding and Registration confirmation
16:15	Round 1
16:30	Round 2
16:45	Round 3
17:00	Round 4
17:15	Round 5
17:30	Round 6
17:45	Round 7

Cruise from 16:00 to 18:00.

The starting time of each round, except the first, may be adjusted so that a round begins immediately after the last game of the previous round has ended.

Prizes

The top three finishers will each receive a bottle of Port wine at the prize-giving ceremony of the Maia International Chess Festival on August 30th.

Tie-Breaks

If two or more players score the same points, the tie shall be decided by the following criteria, in order of priority:

1. Direct encounter;
2. Buchholz Cut-1;
3. Buchholz;
4. Sonneborn-Berger;
5. Games descending (more is better);



6. Number of Wins;

All tie-breaks are calculated as described in the FIDE Tie-Break Regulations (FIDE Handbook C.07).

In case of a tie between two players for first place, the organization may call a match between the players, with two games at a time control of 3 minutes to complete the game, with 2 seconds increment per move, with the player with better tiebreak criteria choosing the initial color. If, after the two games, the result remains tied, a final Armageddon game will be played, with 5 minutes for White and 4 minutes for Black, with an increment of 1 second per move from move 40.

Rating

Tournament rating for FIDE Blitz Elo will be requested. Pairings, results and standings will be available at <https://s3.chess-results.com/tnr1369103.aspx>.

Additional Rules

- By registering and participating, players expressly accept the provisions of these regulations as well as FIDE regulations;
- All participants consent to the capture and use of photographs, videos and other media from the event for promotional purposes as the organization sees fit. Personal data collected will be used solely for event organization and communication with registrants;
- The use of any electronic device in the playing area is strictly prohibited: if an electronic device emits any signal, the holder will be declared the loser. If the opponent cannot reach checkmate through any series of legal moves, the result will be half a point for the opponent and zero for the offender;
- Once their game is finished, players must leave the playing area;
- The organization and arbiter's team will be appointed by AXM;
- Any cases not covered by these regulations shall be decided by the organization. Such decisions are final and not subject to appeal.

Contacts

More information can be obtained by contacting via email maiachessfestival@axm.pt, visiting www.axm.pt or via WhatsApp:



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