

Regulations for the World Blitz Championship 2012

1. Frequency

1.1. The World Blitz Championship 2012 shall be organized annually under the aegis of FIDE by a federation entrusted with the task by the General Assembly or the Presidential Board at least one year in advance. All rights for the organization of the World Chess Blitz Championship and the title of the World Chess Blitz Champion belong to FIDE.

2. Format & Qualification criteria

2.1 Final tournament - 16 players

2.1.1 The top 9 players in the January 2012 FIDE rating list;

2.1.2. The winner of the previous Championship or in case of his absence the next highest rated player as in article 2.1.1;

2.1.3. 3 winners of the semi-final tournament;

2.1.4. 2 nominees by the Organizing Committee;

2.1.5 1 nominee by FIDE President.

2.2 Semi-Final

2.2.1. All players with rating at least 2300 are allowed to take part in the semi-final.

3. Participation

3.1. The Blitz Championship is open to all players with rating at least 2300 representing the National Chess Federations regardless of their title.

3.2. Organizers may limit the number of participants per federation and give the minimum rating floor, upon approval by FIDE.

3.3. Applications have to be sent by the national federations only.

3.4. When FIDE has confirmed the names of the qualified players, the participants will be able to download the copy of the Player's Agreement from the FIDE website (<http://www.fide.com>) and shall send their signed Agreement to FIDE within two weeks. This is the player's responsibility. All participants have to sign and send the Player's Agreement to the FIDE Secretariat, by the deadline, which will be announced by FIDE, on the FIDE website.

3.5. In the case of any withdrawal prior to two weeks before the commencement of the series, FIDE will replace the player who has withdrawn with the next highest rated player in the rating list.

4. Invitation

4.1. One month before the tournament, the organising federation will send an invitation letter to FIDE to be distributed with all affiliated federations. After invitations are approved by the FIDE President, FIDE is responsible for sending them to all affiliated federations. Copies of the invitation shall be sent to the FIDE President, to the Continental Presidents and to the Zone Presidents.

5. Time Control

5.1. For all competitions each player will have 3 minutes + 2 seconds additional time per move, starting from move 1.

6. System of play

6.1. The Final Tournament shall be played in two days as a double round-robin event, 15 rounds per day (or 30 rounds in two days).

6.2. The Semi-Final Tournament shall be played in one day as a Swiss tournament, 11 double rounds (black and white, altogether – 22 games).

6.3. If any player withdraws after completing 50% or more of the games, the rest of his games are lost by default. In case a player completes less than 50%, all his results are annulled. If such a withdrawal is not justified, he will forfeit his right to the prize for the tournament as well as incur further sanctions by FIDE.

6.4. The players are not permitted to speak to their opponents during the games. Appropriate sporting behaviour is expected from all participants and FIDE rules of conduct are to be strictly followed at all times.

6.5. Players will not be allowed to offer draws directly to their opponents. Any draw claim will be permitted only through the Chief Arbiter:

- a triple-repetition of the position as per FIDE laws of chess, and
- applying the rule of 50 moves as per FIDE laws of chess.

7. Tie-break system

7.1. Final Tournament - round robin event

The final standing of players is determined by the number of points scored. If there is a tie, it is broken by:

- a) Results between the players involved;
- b) Number of wins;
- c) Sonneborn-Berger score;
- d) Sudden death game 5'-4'.

If several players tie for the first place, then the above priorities will be used to determine the first and the second players and the title will be decided in a sudden death game between them. Lots will be drawn before the game, the winner choosing the colour of his pieces in this last game. If the game is drawn, the player who has the Black pieces is declared the World Blitz Champion.

7.2. Priorities for qualifying

The final standing order of players in the qualifying event is determined by the number of points scored. Should two or more players tie for a qualifying place, the tie is resolved by:

- a) Median Buchholz system (i.e. Buchholz score without the best and the worst results);
- b) Buchholz system;
- c) Number of wins;
- d) Results between the players involved.
- e) "Sudden death" game 5'-4' (if more than two players - a single round tournament)

8. Principals

8.1. The FIDE President after consultation with the WCOC shall appoint the FIDE Principals. These are:

- FIDE Representative who will be Chairman of Appeals Committee;
- Chief Arbiter and his Deputy;
- Press Officer;

8.2. The organizing federation shall appoint as many Deputy and Assistant arbiters as necessary to ensure that all games are supervised.

8.3. All principals will be hosted on a full board basis by the organisers for the duration of their stay.

9. Tournament Schedule

Date		Rounds	Time of start of games	Other comments
01.07.2012	Arrival			
02.07.2012 – day 1	Rapid – Qualification	Rounds 1-5	15:00	
03.07.2012 – day 2	Rapid – Qualification	Rounds 6-9	15:00	
04.07.2012 – day 3	Blitz - Qualification	Rounds 11 x 2	15:00	
05.07.2012 – day 4	Opening Ceremony	-	-	To be announced
06.07.2012 – day 5	Rapid – Finals	Rounds 1-5	15:00	
07.07.2012 – day 6	Rapid – Finals	Rounds 6-10	15:00	
08.07.2012 – day 7	Rapid – Finals	Rounds 11-15	15:00	Closing Ceremony – Rapid 20:00h
09.07.2012 – day 8	Blitz – Finals	Rounds 1-15	15:00	
10.07.2012 – day 9	Blitz – Finals	Rounds 16-30	15:00	Closing Ceremony – Blitz 20:00h
11.07.2012	Departure	-	-	

10. Arrangements for the Playing Hall

10.1. The WCOC shall ensure the playing hall and its environs meet the requirements of the FIDE Regulations for the Organization of Top Level Tournaments (as per FIDE Handbook).

10.2. The playing venue shall be decorated with the FIDE flag, IOC flag, the flags of the host nation and the participating players' Federations and the sponsors' brandings.

10.3. After the WCOC agrees with the Organisers on the arrangements in respect of the tournament hall, facilities, accommodation and meals, transportation, telecommunication, ceremonies, no objections from the participants shall be acceptable.

11. Interviews, functions and mode of dressing

11.1. The players are expected to cooperate reasonably with the media. General interviews with them can be arranged only through the Press Officer.

11.2. The players are required to make themselves available for short interviews immediately after each game. In general, both players shall be available for the daily press conference.

11.3. Players are required to be present at all official functions approved by FIDE President or his representative during the Tournament including official receptions and the opening and closing ceremonies.

11.4. Players are specifically requested to note the requirements of FIDE Regulations in respect of their dignified appearance at all times during the event.

12. Photography and Television

12.1. Only photographers and camera crews expressly authorized by the Organising Committee may work in the playing venue.

13. Financial Regulations and Prizes

13.1. Travelling expenses for 16 players plus 4 FIDE Principals and the Global Chess representative up to a maximum of 800 Euros per player travelling from the same continent or Europe and 1,200 euros for players travelling from African or American continent for economy class tickets. Any travelling costs for accompanying persons will be the players' responsibility.

13.2. The entry fee stipulated in the Financial Regulations shall be paid to FIDE, but 50% of the fee should be transferred by FIDE to the organising federation.

13.3. Board and lodging for the 16 finalists shall be provided by the organizing federation.

13.4. The organiser shall provide free board, lodging and travel costs for the Chief Arbiter and assistants as well as proper stipends for them.

13.5. The organising federation shall award a gold medal to the winner of the title World Blitz Champion, a silver medal to the player who took the second place and a bronze medal to the player who took the third place.

13.6. The organising federation shall award prizes for the Blitz Championship as follows:

Prize Fund	US DOLLARS
Prize Fund	200,000
1st Place	40,000
2nd Place	33,000
3rd Place	27,500
4th Place	22,500
5th Place	18,000
6th Place	14,000
7th Place	12,000
8th Place	10,000
9th Place	7,000
10th Place	4,000
11th-16th place (2,000 \$ each)	12,000
FIDE	40,000
GRAND Total	240,000

13.7. All monetary prizes are shared equally, in cases of any tied positions.

13.8. The total fees for the World Blitz and Rapid Championships for the principals are as follows: Chief Arbiter (3,500 USD), Deputy Chief Arbiter (3,000 USD), Chairman of Appeals Committee (3,500 USD) and Press Officer.

14. Opening Ceremony

14.1. An Opening Ceremony shall take place and all participants are required to take part.

15. Closing Ceremony

15.1. The Closing Ceremony shall take place according to the schedule. The Organizer shall provide three trophies to the first three placed players. The FIDE Anthem, the anthem of the winner's country and the anthem of the host country shall be played.

16. Tournament and Playing Conditions

16.1. Apart from the players and principals, no other person shall be allowed in the actual playing area during the games, except with the express permission of the Chief Arbiter.

16.2. The players are not permitted to bring into the playing venue any electronic or technical or other equipment extraneous to play, which may in any way disturb or upset the opponent or may be in breach of the Rules of Chess. The Chief Arbiter shall decide what constitutes extraneous equipment liable to offend the opponent or may be in breach of the Rules of Chess.

16.3. The players shall shake hands (or shall greet each other in a normal social manner in accordance with the conventional rules of their society) before the start and after the end of each game. If a player fails to meet these requirements and after being asked to do so by the Chief Arbiter, then the player will lose the game immediately.

16.4. During the game, a player may talk only to an arbiter or communicate with a steward.

16.5. Organizers shall provide in sufficiency, free of charge, coffee, tea and soft drinks for the players and principals. It is advisable that the same offer shall apply for the press members.

16.6. All players are required to attend a Players' meeting at a date and time to be decided by the Chief Arbiter. If deemed necessary, the Chief Arbiter may call other Players' Meetings. The drawing of lots will take place during the first Players' meeting or in the Opening Ceremony.

16.7. Zero tolerance will be exercised throughout the events. Any player turning up late will forfeit the game.

16.8. During play either the Chief Arbiter or the Deputy Chief Arbiter must be present in the playing area.

16.9. The Chief Arbiter may, in consultation with the Chairman of Appeals Committee, the players and after the approval of the FIDE President, issue additional written regulations to lay down the exact playing hours and take care of other details not covered by these regulations.

16.10. Immediately after the end of the event, the Chief Arbiter shall draw up a report in the English language and send it without delay to the FIDE Secretariat. The report shall be supplemented by adding two copies of the bulletins of the event. The report shall contain the result of each individual

game as well as the final standings of the event. In addition, the report shall contain a general description of the course of the event.

16.11. Immediately after the end of the event, the Chairman of Appeals Committee shall draw up a report in the English language and send it without delay to the FIDE Secretariat. The report shall contain an overview of the organisation, the conditions and any other matter that may be deemed relevant by the Chairman of Appeals Committee.

17. Appeals Committee

17.1. Two players and two reserves will be chosen during the Players' meeting to constitute the Appeals Committee.

17.2. No member of the Appeals Committee shall sit in judgement in a dispute involving a player or party from his Federation except where the dispute is between two players or two parties from his Federation.

17.3. All protests must be submitted in writing to the Appeals Committee not more than 15 minutes after the relevant playing session, or the particular infringement complained against.

17.4. The Committee may decide on the following matters within a reasonable time frame:

- a) an appeal against a decision by an arbiter,
- b) a protest against a player's behaviour,
- c) a complaint alleging false interpretation of the regulations,
- d) a request for the interpretation of specific regulations,
- e) a protest or complaint against any participant, or
- f) all other matters which the Committee considers important.

17.5. If possible, the Committee shall reach a decision not more than 15 minutes after the submission of a protest. The appeals process shall include written representations and a written decision. The Committee shall endeavour to find binding solutions that are within the true spirit of the FIDE motto, Gens Una Sumus.

17.6. Each protest must be accompanied by a deposit fee of €500 or a written statement that this fee can be deducted from the prize fund if the protest is rejected. If the protest is accepted, the fee shall be returned. If the protest is rejected, then in this case, FIDE reserves the right to withhold the deposit fee.

17.7. The decision of the Appeals Committee arising from any dispute in respect of these regulations shall be final.

18. Payment of Prize Money and Stipends

18.1. The prize fund and stipends shall be paid by direct bank transfer in Euros from FIDE's bankers UBS, Lausanne.

18.2. FIDE shall not be responsible if any national tax has to be deducted from the prize money or for any tax obligation of the participants in their respective countries.

18.3. At any time in the course of the application of these regulations, any grounds that are not covered or any unforeseen event shall be referred to the President of FIDE for final decision.

19. Penalties

19.1. Should a player be in breach of conduct of any of these regulations, then the player may be subject to an automatic penalty, by FIDE, of USD 1,000 for any instance of breach.

19.2. Should a player be in repeated breach of any of these regulations, FIDE reserves the right to expel the player from the tournament and subject the player to an automatic fine of USD 2,500. In this case, the expelled player will not have any right to any prize money, irrespective of his standing at the time of expulsion.

19.3. Should a player withdraw from the tournament without proper justification to the WCOC, then an automatic penalty of USD 5,000 will be imposed by FIDE on the player and the player may be excluded from the next World Blitz Championship.