E-MAGAZINE MARCH 2022

European Chess Union



Corporate Championship

European Corporate Chess Championship 2022, will take place from 17th-20th June 2022 in Rotterdam, Netherlands.

FIDE Grand Prix 2022

Hikaru Nakamura wins FIDE Grand Prix 2022. Hikaru Nakamura and Richard Rapport qualified for the FIDE Candidates Tournament in #Madrid.







Matthias Bluebaum European Chess Champion 2022



In brief..

The European Individual Chess Championship 2022 took place from 27th March - 6th April in Terme Catez, Slovenia. **Matthias Bluebaum (GER)** announces as the European Champion 2022

FIDE Grand Prix series of three tournaments were orgnaised from 3rd February - 4th April in Berlin and Belgrade. **Hikaru Nakamura (USA) and Richard Rapport (HUN)** qualify for FIDE Candidates Tournament.

The official invitation for six (6) European Chess Championships have been published and you can find them in the next pages.

ECU in cooperation with FIDE Events Commission, FIDE Women's Commission, co-funded by FIDE Development Fund, organises the Webinar f**or FIDE International Organisers from 11 to 14 of April.**

The Chess in school conference "Chess: a Game to be Spread in Schools" (CGS) will be held on 14th of May, in Zurich Dorint Airport Hotel.

ECU General Assembly and the ECU Elections will be held in Chennai, India on 6th of August 2022.

European Chess Union has its seat in Switzerland, Address: Rainweidstrasse 2, CH-6333, Hunenberg See, Switzerland .
European Chess Union is an independent association founded in 1985 in Graz, Austria;
European Chess Union has 54 National Federation Members;
Every year ECU organizes more than 20 prestigious events and championships;

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Matthias Bluebaum wins European Individual Chess Championship 2022

The European Individual Chess Championship 2022 took place from 27th March - 6th April in Terme Catez, Slovenia.

After 11 played rounds with more than 300 participants, German Grandmaster Matthias Bluebaum (GER, 2642) won the Championship scoring 8.5 points.









Bluebaum maintained the leadership from the 5th round and in the end tied for the first place with Sargissian Gabrial (ARM, 2681) who had the same score. Additional criteria decided that Bluebaum takes gold and Sargissian won silver medal.

Six players were in a tie for the third place scoring 8 points, each: Saric Ivan (CRO, 2687), Cheparinov Ivan (ECU, 2672), Santos Latasa Jaime (ESP, 2648), Yilmaz Mustafa (TUR, 2644), Ponomariov Ruslan (UKR, 2636) and Durarbayli Vasif (AZE, 2628). Additional criteria decided that Ivan Saric wins bronze.

The Closing Ceremony took place after the end of the last round in the playing venue. The ECU President Mr. Zurab Azmaiparashvili officially declared the event closed and took part in awarding ceremony of the winners. Deputy mayor of the Municipality of Brezice Mr. Bogdan Palovsnik awarded the Winners of the special prizes.

The best Women players:
1. Beydullayeva Govhar (AZE, 2308),
2. Salimova Nurgyul (ECU, 2399),
3. Buksa Nataliya (UKR, 2401)

The best Senior players:
1. Kozul Zdenko (CRO, 2619),
2.Stefansson Hannes (ISL, 2520),
3.Zelcic Robert (CRO, 2513)

The best Juniors U18:
1.Petkov Momchil (ECU, 2465)
2.Samadov Read (AZE, 2375)
3.Suleymanli Aydin (AZE, 2525)

The best ACP players:
1.Bartel Mateusz (POL, 2616),
2.Baklan Vladimir (UKR, 2591),
3.Navara David (CZE, 1700)

The European Individual Chess Championship 2022 is qualification event for the next FIDE World Cup. According to decision of the ECU Board and FIDE regulations 20 players qualified. Besides the regular prizes and special prizes, 26 players achieved FIDE titles norms.

By the end of the Closing Ceremony the Secretary General of Slovenian Chess Federation Nina Rob delivered the ECU flag to Stephane Escarfe and the French Chess Federation for the organisation of upcoming Mitropa Cup 2022.

#EICC2022

European Individual Chess Championship

European Individual Chess Championship 2022 took place from 27th March - 6th April in Terme Catez, Slovenia.

Detailed final report from the event with the Winners and FIDE World Cup qualifiers can be found on the ECU Website.





European Individual Chess Championship - Photo Gallery

The European Individual Chess Championship 2022 officially opened on Saturday 26th of March in a magnificent venue of Brezice Castle.

ECU president Mr. Zurab Azmaiparashvili, President of Slovenian Chess Federation Mr. Milan Brglez, the President of Slovanian National Assembly Mr. Igor Zorcic and the deputy mayor of the Municipality of Brezice Mr. Bogdan Palovsnik addressed the players and distinguished guests.

They all expressed support to Ukraine and Ukrainian chess players. Shortly before the start of the first round, ECU President and President of Slovenian Chess Federation Mr. Milan Brglez wished the best of luck to the players and ECU President made the ceremonial move to start the round.





ECU President Mr. Zurab Azmaiparashvili awarded the Winners of the Championship at the Closing Ceremony



ECU Vice President Mrs.Dana Reizniece Ozola opened the 9th round



Hikaru Nakamura and Richard Rapport qualify for FIDE Candidates Tournament

FIDE Grand Prix series of three tournaments were organised from 3rd February - 4th April in Berlin and Belgrade.

The two best ranked players on the overall standings - Hikaru Nakmura and Richard Rapport qualified for the FIDE Grand Prix Tournament 2022.







FIDE Grand Prix organised by World Chess
Top-10 Standings

		Berlin	Belgrade	Berlin	Total
1	Hikaru Nakamura	13	-	10	23
2	Richárd Rapport	7	13	-	20
3	Wesley So	4	-	13	17
4	Levon Aronian	10	-	2	12
5	Dmitry Andreikin	-	10	-	10
6	Amin Tabatabaei	-	3	7	10
7	Shakhriyar Mamedyarov	-	3	7	10
8	Leinier Domínguez	7	-	2	9
9	Sam Shankland	-	4	4	8
10	Maxime Vachier-Lagrave	-	7	1	8

Photos by FIDE and Niki Riga.

The third FIDE Grand Prix 2022 tournament took place from 21st March - 4th April in Berlin, deciding the overall standings of the series. Richard Rapport didn't compete in the third event as he took part in the first two tournaments, and with the overall score of 20 grand prix points he almost secured the spot in the Candidates. However, there was a theoretical chance that he won't qualify if the results of the last FIDE Grand Prix tournament in Berlin were different.

After the pool stage of the 3rd FIDE Grand Prix event it was clear that Hikaru Nakamura and Richard Rapport cannot be hunted on the top of the overall standings and the list of FIDE Candidates Tournament became official. Score of at least 20 grand prix points for both players was impossible to be reached by other players.

After the Berlin pool stage of 6 rounds and tiebreak matches, four players proceeded to knock-out stage: Hikaru Nakamura, Shakhriyar Mamedyarov, Wesley So and Amin Tabatabaei.

Semifinals matches were played between Nakamura and Mamedyarov and So vs Tabatabaei. Both matches were decided in the tiebreaks, as the classical part of the matches ended in tie.

Hikaru Nakamura was victorious against Mamedyarov defeating him with a 2-0 result, and Wesley So beated Amin Tabatabaei with the same convincing 2-0 result.

The final match between two American players started with two draws, and the Winner of the last FIDE Grand Prix tournament in 2022 was decided in tiebreak match. Wesley So defeated Nakamura with 1.5-0.5 result, but both players were announced as winners as Nakamura collected 23 grand prix points to be an overall FIDE Grand Prix Winner.

More details can be found on the Official Website of the event.

FIDE Grand Prix 2022

System of play

FIDE Grand Prix 2022 series of three tournaments took place from 3rd February - 4th April 2022 in Belgrade and Berlin. The system of play was same on all three events with 16 participants separated in 4 pools and they competed in 3 double robin-round rounds for the first place of groups. Only the Group Winners qualified for the knock-out phase of the event, collecting points for the overall rankings.

ECU General Assembly 2022

ECU General Assembly and the ECU Elections will be held in Chennai, India on 6th of August 2022.
The invitation for the ECU General Assembly by the ECU President Mr. Zurab Azmaiparashvili:



Dear Ladies and Sirs,
I have the pleasure to invite you to the ECU General Assembly and the ECU Elections to be held in Chennai, India on 6th of August 2022.

According to the published schedule of the FIDE Congress 2022 in Chennai, India the Continental meetings will take place on 6th of August 2022. The exact time and room for the ECU General Assembly will be announced.
In accordance with ECU Statutes, proposals from Members to be included in the agenda must reach the ECU Secretariat, by email, **not later than Friday 6th of May 2022.**
The President, the Deputy President, two (2) Vice President, the Secretary General and the Treasurer are elected on a combined ticket.

Nominations for this ticket shall reach the ECU Secretariat scanned by email, **not later than Friday 6th of May 2022.**
Nominations for the individual elections of the rest three (3) Vice Presidents shall reach the ECU Secretariat scanned by email, not later than Friday 6th of May 2022.
Nomination papers are obtainable from the ECU Secretariat:
ecu.secretary.general@gmail.com
You may find all details regarding electoral process and nominations in the ECU Statutes.
All the information about registration, travel and accommodation will be included in the FIDE Congress 2022 invitation which is expected to be published soon.
ECU acknowledges that in case of force majeure or other emergency situation that seriously impedes the conduct of the ECU General Assembly in Chennai, the venue may be changed by ECU Board decision with a proper and due notice in advance.

Sincerely,
ECU President - Zurab Azmaiparashvili



“Chess: a Game to be Spread in Schools”Conference

The Chess in School conference with Erasmus+ meetings and programs will take place from 11th-14th May 2022 in Zurich, Switzerland.

The chess in school conference “Chess: a Game to be Spread in Schools” (CGS) will be held on 14th of May, in Dorint Airport Hotel.

The Conference will be held in the English language and it will be open (free admission) to interested participants: federations officials, teachers, educators, chess instructors.

The Conference will feature following themes:
>CGS project overall presentation
>Psychomotricity on giant chessboard – CASTLE/ERASMUS+ project
>The final report of the CGS research
>Chess and Coding presentation
>Guidelines for Teachers presentation
>Interactive online training platform

The speakers of the Conference includes till now: ECU Secretary General, Theodoros Tsorbatzoglou, Luis Blasco de la Cruz (Club Villalba 64), Davide Della Rina – Turin University, Chairman of ECU EDU Commission Jesper Hall, Miriam Minardi – CSEN, Alessandro Dominici – Alfiere Bianco, ECU president Zurab Azmaiparashvili, ECU Vice President and FIDE Managing Director Dana Reizniece Ozola.

The CGS program partners will meet during the TPM3 program which takes place from 11th-13th May also in Zurich. The CGS partners will discuss the modalities and objectives of multiplier events, as well as the updating of teaching models.

Full program of the Chess in Schools Conference can be found on the ECU Website.





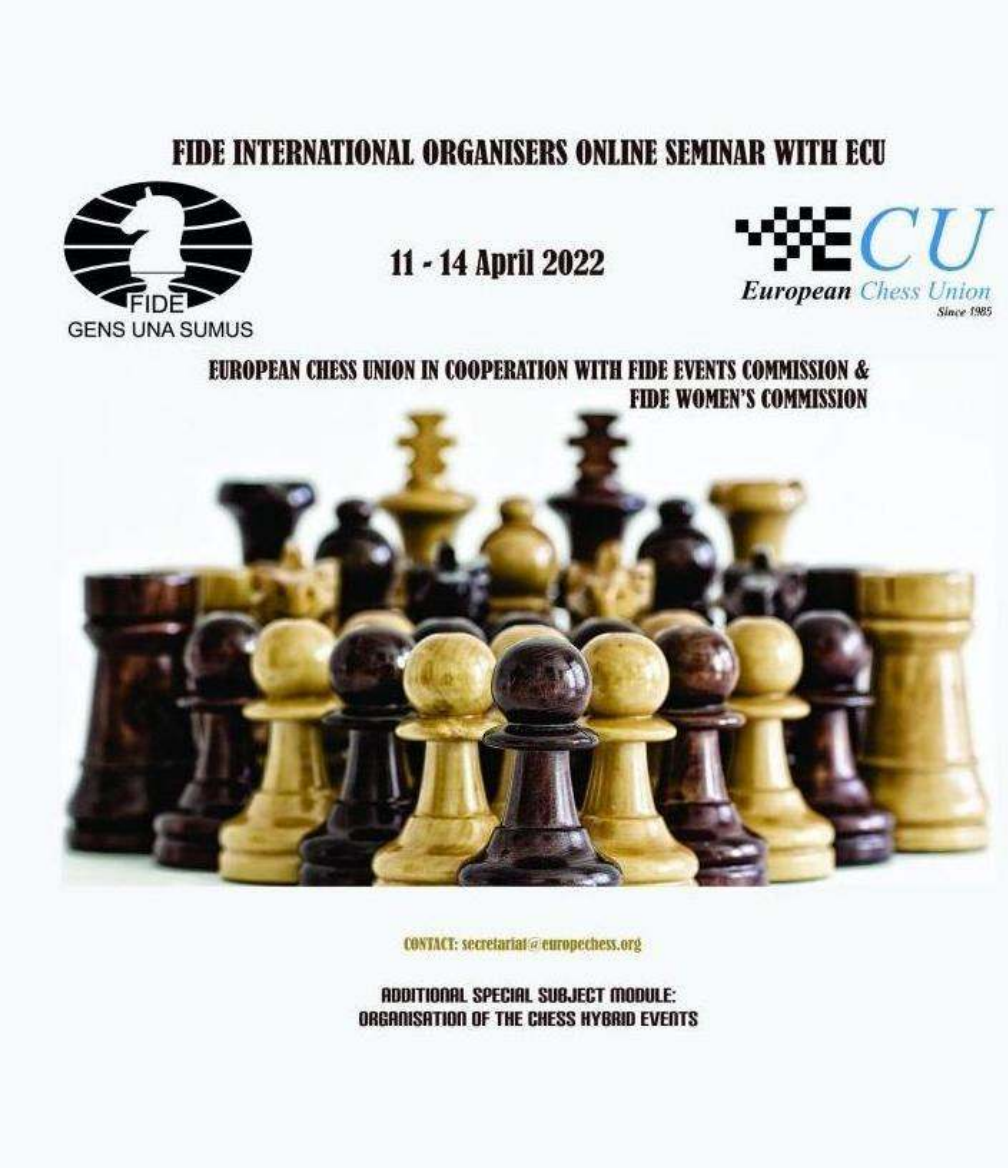
Conference venue

CGS Conference
Registrationss

To register for the conference send an email to formazione@alfierebianco.com indicating your name, surname and school (or Association, Company, etc..) belonging. The registration deadline is 10 May 2022.

More details can be found on the ECU Website

European Chess Union in cooperation with FIDE Events Commission, FIDE Women's Commission, co-funded by FIDE Development Fund, organises the Webinar for FIDE International Organisers.



FIDE International Organisers Online Seminar with ECU

The Webinar for FIDE IO will be held from 11th-14th April in English language, with the following topics:
>Regulations FIDE Events (General Regulations, Specific Regulations, Bid Procedure)
>Events' Management
>Ratings and Titles – Tournament Conditions
>Titles applications and Tournament experience
>Organisation of Online and Hybrid Events

The lecturers will be IO Ozgur Solakoglou (ozgurso@gmail.com) and IO Theodoros Tsorbatzoglou (teotsorb@gmail.com).

Successful Seminar attendees will grant a FIDE IO Norm necessary for the FIDE IO title application.

The Webinar is open for 40 participants in total and it will be free for Female Participants from any continent and for all Participants coming from Zone 1.10. (European Small Nations). For the other participants the entry fee is 50 euros.

More details about the Seminar can be found through the ECU Website.

French GM Maxime Lagarde wins the 7th Francophone Rapid Chess Championship



The 7th Rapid Chess Championship of the Francophonie was organized this year on March 19 & 20 jointly by the Lyon Olympique Echecs and the Francophone Chess Association (AIDEF) in partnership with the Auvergne-Rhône-Alpes Region, in the premises of the magnificent Hotel of Region.

The event featured press conference, simultaneous exhibition, cocktail gala and the main event.

It brought together 169 participants from 13 countries, including 8 Grand Masters, 11 International Masters and 8 FIDE Masters, which is the record participation of the tournament and testifies to an exceptionally high level. It must be said that the 6000 euros guaranteed price had attracted a lot of people!

The competition featured: 13 rounds Swiss system – Cadence 15 minutes + 10 seconds awaited the participants, but according to a different formula this year: After the first 10 rounds, the players who finished in the first 8 competed between them quarter-finals, then semi-finals with direct elimination and then a final for the title, the others continuing to play the last 3 rounds for the allocation of places from the 9th.

This final was played between Pierre Laurent-Paoli and Maxime Lagarde in the hemicycle of the Auvergne-Rhône-Alpes Region, and it is finally the latter who wins for the second time, after Cannes in 2018, the title of Francophone Rapid Chess Champion.

Organisation

AIDEF would like to thank the entire Lyon Olympique Echecs team, the volunteers, the arbiters, the private and institutional sponsors, especially the Confederation of small and medium-sized enterprises (CPME) and the Auvergne-Rhône-Alpes Region, without whom nothing would have been possible.

Detailed press release about the event can be found on the ECU Website

The overall ranking:

1.IGM Maxime Lagarde (FRA)
2. IM Pierre Laurent-Paoli (FRA)
3.IGM Christian Bauer (FRA)
4. IGM Alexandre Dgebuadze (BEL)
5. IM Yohan Benitah (FRA)
6. IM Nderim Saraci (Kosovo)
7. IGM Gabriel Flom (FRA)
8. IM Anatole Vlachos (GRE)
9. IGM Marc Andria Maurizzi (FRA)



Special prices:

1st -2200 ELO IGM Marc Andria Maurizzi
1st -2000 ELO – Tristan Bregnac
1st -1800 ELO – Luca Ernst
1st Women – WIM Ekaterini Pavlidou
1st -20 years old – IM Anatole Vlachos
1st Senior +50 – IGM Alexandre Dgebuadze
1st Veteran +65 – Alain Wauters



European Corporate Chess Championship 2022

European Corporate Chess Championship 2022, organized by CC&O- Chess Communication & Organization, under the auspices of European Chess Union, will take place from 17th-20th June 2022 in Rotterdam, Netherlands.

The tournament will be played on a luxury cruise ship of Royal Spido (named James Cook), while sailing in the Rotterdam harbour.

Any corporate entity is allowed to register up to two teams. Chess Clubs, Chess Associations, and Chess Federations are not allowed to participate in the championship. A team is composed of 4 main players and 1 optional substitute player.

The team composition:
-May have only one player over 2400 ELO (rapid FIDE rating included – FIDE rating lists April 2020)
-Shall have at least one player below 2000 ELO (rapid FIDE rating included – FIDE rating lists April 2020) playing each round.
-For each round at least two players of the team shall have a commercial relation (employment or similar) with the company with which he is playing for. Players shall be in rating order in the team composition (June FIDE rating lists) in order to play amateurs against amateurs as possible.
-All players must be over 16 years old.



Photo: Querbeet/Getty Images

The event will be played in 9 rounds, Swiss system, with time control of 15 minutes for the whole game, plus 5 seconds of an increment starting from the move one.

The total prize fund of the Championship is 6.000 EUR, with 3.000 EUR reserved for the Winner of the event.

A team may apply for the championship individually or via a National Federation. **The registration deadline is 30th April 2022.**







The luxury cruise ship of Royal Spido - playing venue of the

ECCC2022

European Corporate Chess Championship

The European Corporate Chess Championship 2022 will take place from 17th-20th June 2022 in Rotterdam, Netherlands, being played on a luxury cruise ship of Royal Spido.

Official invitation and regulations of the event can be found on the ECU Website.

European Senior Chess Championship 2022 - Official invitation

The European Senior Chess Championship will be held in Lublin, Poland from 4th July 2022 (day of arrival) to 14th July 2022 (day of departure). The Championship will be held in Arche Hotel Lublin. The event will be played in two age categories: 50+ and 65+, open and women's sections separately.

The European Senior Individual Chess Championship is open to all players, regardless of rating and title, who reach their age of 50 and 65 by 31st December 2022 and represent National Chess Federations which are members of ECU.

In accordance with the ECU tournament rule the Championship will be played in two categories: one for those who shall have reached the age of 50 (category SENIOR 50+), and one for those who shall have reached the age of 65 (category SENIOR 65+). Players who have reached the age of 65 are allowed to participate and in the category SENIOR 50+ if they request it. In each age category an Open and a Women's competition is organized. There is also no limit of participants per federation.

The Championships will be played in 9 rounds, Swiss system, with time control: 90 minutes for 40 moves plus 30 minutes for the rest of the game with an increment of 30 seconds per move, starting from move one.

The total prize fund of the event will be 6.000 EUR. According to FIDE Handbook D.04.03.7, the top 3 players from each category of the European Senior Championship 2022 are qualified with personal rights (free board and lodging) to the World Senior Championship 2023.

The registration deadline is 4th of June 2022. Applications shall be sent by email to the following address: info@escc2022.eu.

Official regulations of the Championship and invitation can be found on the ECU Website.



Lublin, Poland



Hotel Arche, Lublin, Poland

European Youth Team Chess Championships 2022 will take place from 11 July (arrivals) to 19 July (departures) in the Conference Hall of the 5 stars Lazart Hotel in Thessaloniki which will host also the European Rapid and Blitz Chess Championship 2022 from 19 July to 23 July 2022.



European Youth Team and European Youth Rapid & Blitz Chess Championships 2022

The European Youth Team Chess Championships (EYTCC) will include four (4) separate competitions, an open competition and a girl's competition in categories U12 and U18. The playing members of the teams shall not have reached the age of 12 or 18, depending on the category, by 1st January 2022.

Each national federation member of the European Chess Union (ECU) has the right to enter up to four (4) teams of four (4) players and one (1) reserve in the open competitions and up to four (4) teams of two (2) female players and one (1) reserve in the girl competitions. These teams may represent the national federation, a region, a city, a club, or a school.

The events will be played in 7 rounds, Swiss system, with time control: 90 min for 40 moves + 30 min for the rest of the game + 30 sec increment for every move played starting from move 1.

Prizes:
The winning team of the open competition receives the title "European Youth Champion Team 2022" in its respective category. The first three (3) teams in each competition will receive trophies and medals. ECU Certificates for all participants will be awarded.

Registration deadline is 19th of May 2022.

Official regulations are published on the ECU Website.









European Youth Rapid & Blitz Chess Championships 2022 will start after the finish of European Youth Team Chess Championships being held in the same venue from 19th-23rd July.

The events will be played in 6 age categories: U8, U10, U12, U14, U16 and U18, open and girls sections separately.

The official venue of the European Rapid&Blitz Chess Championship 2022 will be same as for European Youth Team Chess Championship - Hotel Lazart, Thessaloniki, Greece.

Entry forms for European Youth Rapid&Blitz Chess Championships 2022 must be filled and sent to the Tournament office no later than 19 May 2022 - the registration deadline.

21st EUROPEAN YOUTH RAPID CHAMPIONSHIP

>Will be played in 9 rounds according to the Swiss system, with rate of play: 15 min.+10 sec. per player
> Categories (12 in total): open and girls up to 8, 10, 12, 14, 16 and 18 years.
>Prizes: the best 3 (three) players, in each category, will receive trophies, medals, and gift prizes.

21st EUROPEAN YOUTH BLITZ CHAMPIONSHIP
>Will be played in 9 rounds according to the Swiss system (two games per round), with rate of play: 3 min. + 2 sec. per player
>Categories (12): open and girls up to 8, 10, 12, 14, 16 and 18 years.
>Prizes: the best 3 (three) players, in each category, will receive trophies, medals, and gift prizes.

Official invitation and regulations for both European Youth Team Chess Championship 2022 and European Rapid&Blitz Chess Championship 2022 can be found on the ECU Website.

EYTCC&EYRBCC2022

European Youth Team Chess Championships 2022 and European Youth Rapid&Blitz Chess Championship 2022 will take place one after each other in the same venue -Hotel Lazart in Thessaloniki, Greece. European Youth Team Chess Championship will take place from 11- 19 July and the European Rapid and Blitz Chess Championship 2022 will be held from 19 - 23 July 2022.

View of Zagreb, photo by J.Duval





The European Amateur Chess Championship 2022 will take place from 13th August (arrival day) to 21st August 2022 (departure day) in Hotel Aristos****, located in the city of Zagreb, Croatia.

The event will be played in three rating categories: U2300, U2000 and U1700, open and women's sections separately.

European Amateur Chess Championship 2022 – Regulations

A player must not have a published FIDE rating of 2300 or greater for at least one year prior to the registration deadline of the event. For the Under-2000 section, a player must not have a published FIDE rating of 2000 or greater for at least one year prior to the start of the championship. For the Under-1700 section, a player must not have a published FIDE rating of 1700 or greater for at least one year prior to the start of the championship. In case a player exceeds the rating of 1700 or 2000 after the registration deadline, he/she will play the upper rating category.

A separate championship for women shall be organized only if there are at least 10 women entries otherwise the women's event will be merged with the open competition with separate prizes.

The official venue and Hotel of the event will be Hotel Aristos****.

The events will be played in 9 rounds, Swiss system, in accordance with FIDE Laws of Chess and the ECU Tournament Rules. The rate of play will be 90 minutes for 40 moves plus 30minutes for the rest of the game, with an increment of 30 seconds per move, starting from move one.
The total prize fund of the event will be 4.000 EUR.

The completed application forms should be sent by official email to: hss.crochess@gmail.com. The registration deadline is June 20, 2022.

Official regulations and invitation are publlished on the ECU Website.

European Women's Individual Chess Championship 2022 – Official invitation

The 22nd European Women's Chess Championship will take place from 19th August – 1st September in Prague, Czech Republic.



Hotel Don Giovanni

The event will be played in 11 rounds, Swiss system, with time control 90 minutes for 40 moves plus 30 minutes for the rest of the game with an increment of 30 seconds per move, starting from /move one.

The 22nd European Individual Women Chess Championship is a qualification event for the FIDE Women's World Cup 2023. According to the FIDE regulations and the ECU Board decision, 9 players will qualify.

Total Prize fund of the event is 60,000 euros.

European Women Chess Championship 2022 is open for all women players who are members of national chess federations integral to the European Chess Union (ECU) without rating or title limitations.

The registration deadline is 30th of June 2022. The registration form shall be filled in at the official website of the championship.

The official hotel of the event and the playing venue of the European Women's Individual Chess Championship 2022 will be ****Hotel Don Giovanni.

Official invitation and regulations can be found on the ECU Website.



European Senior Team Chess Championship 2022

The City of Dresden, the Dresdner Schachfestival e.V. and the European Chess Federation have the honour to invite all senior players throughout Europe to participate in the **European Senior Team Chess Championship 2022** (categories 50+ and 65+) organised in Dresden (Germany) from 26th October to 5th November 2022.

According to the ECU tournament rules, the European Championship will be played in four categories: age 50+ and 65+ (Open and women). There shall be separate Women's Championships if there are at least 8 teams in one category. Otherwise, the women's championship is merged with the open respective category.

The championship will be played in 9 rounds, Swiss system, with time control of 90 minutes for 40 moves followed by 30 minutes for the rest of the game + 30 seconds per move starting from move 1.

The European Senior Team Chess Championship is open to all players, regardless of rating and title, who reach their age of 50 and 65 by 31st December 2022 and represent National Chess Federations which are members of ECU. There is no limit in the number of teams per federation.

Teams shall consist of four players and one reserve player and all team players must be members of the same European chess federation.



photo by Karsten Wieland.

The playing venue of the event is directly connected to one of the official hotels of the event ****Maritim Hotel Dresden.

The Winners of the event will receive trophies and medals, and the title of European Senior Team Chess Champions 2022 for the respective category. The total prize fund of the event will be 6.000 EUR.

The first registration period ends on 15th July 2022, after that the starting fee for a player is 100 EUR for a late registration. **The official registration period ends on 26th August 2022.**



The City of Dresden and official venue of the event

ESTCC2022

European Senior Team Chess Championship 2022 will be played in two age categories: 50+ and 65+, open and women's sections separately.

Official invitation and regulations of the event can be found on the ECU Website.



The Mitropa Cup 2022 will be held from 27th April – 8th May in the Sports complex (COSEC) of Corti, Corsica/ France.

The following chess federations are entitled to take part in the Mitropa Cup 2022: Austria, Croatia, Czech Republic, France, Germany, Hungary, Italy, Slovakia, Slovenia and Switzerland.

Mitropa Cup 2022

The tournament will be held in two sections: the open section, and the women's section. In the Open section, an extra team, from the organizer (Corsican League) will participate. All players of this team must be licensed in a Corsican club for the years 2022 and 2021.

The event will be played in 9 rounds, round-robin system, with time control: 90 minutes for 40 moves, followed by 30 minutes to finish the game, with 30 seconds increment for each move from move one.

The first three teams will be awarded trophies and gold, silver and bronze medals.

Federations have to confirm participation until March 31, 2022. The registration of the team composition must be done before April 07, 2022.

Detailed regulations and information can be found on the ECU Website.

The Mitropa Cup is the annual team chess tournament for national teams from Central Europe. The traditional team event this year brings together 10 nations competing against each other in an Open and a Women section on 4 boards each. Austria, Croatia, Czech Republic, France, Germany, Hungary, Italy, Slovakia, Slovenia, Switzerland. The event commenced in 1976 in Innsbruck.

Super Chess Rapid event in Romania

The Romanian Chess Federation launches the project of the Romanian Grand Prix series of 6 events with a total prize fund of 100.000 EUR, aiming to support the top performance in Romanian Chess.



Romanian Grand Prix 2022 will consist of 5 open qualifying tournaments and the final closed tournament, with participation of the best Romanian chess players. Three tournaments will be played in classical time control and two with rapid time control.

The first tournament of the Romanian Grand Prix series is the Super Chess Rapid event, taking place from 29th April – 1st May in Bucharest.

The Super Chess Rapid tournament will be played in 10 rounds, Swiss system, with time control 15 minutes + 5 seconds of an increment.

The official venue of the event will be the reception hall of the Palace of the Parliament. The prize fund of the Super Chess Rapid tournament will be 20.000 EUR.

Official regulations can be found on the ECU Website.



The International Open German Championship for Women will be held from 27th April - 1st May in Best Western Plus Plaza Hotel, Darmstadt.

The event is open to all interested players, regardless of their title or rating.



International Open German Championship for Women

The International Open German Championship for Women will be played in 7 rounds, Swiss system, with time control: 90 min for 40 moves + 15 min for the rest of the game + 30 seconds of increment starting with move 1.

The prize fund of the event features prizes for the best ranked five players, with 500 EUR reserved for the Winner, as well as the special prizes for the best player rated under 2000 and for the best player rated under 1700.

Registration should be done online on the following email address: iodfem@schachbund.de. Registration deadline is 22.04.2022.

In addition to the seven-round Open tournament, there is another highlight: at the same place and time, the Women's German Masters will take place, where the 10 best German female players will meet in a round-robin tournament.

More details on the ECU Website.

One handbook to rule them all

Almost every sport in the world has a simplified version for children. Novice tennis players start on half-size courts with smaller nets, and balls that bounce higher and slower. Basketball beginners use smaller balls, lower rings and have modified rules, including a limit on how many points an individual player can score!

But is this needed in chess? A bright 6 year old can learn the basic movements of all the pieces in under an hour, so is there any need for rule modifications?

To answer this question I asked coaches and tournament organisers of beginner and school chess programs about the most confusing rules for new players and what changes they would make. Here's what they had to say:
- En passant is the most confusing rule; players should be able to take back their pawn move if it gets captured e.p. and they didn't know the move was possible
- Castling; players should be able to move either the rook or the king first
- Players in check should not be required to adhere to touch-move
- No draw offers, no resignations; play it out!
- Stalemate is a win, not a draw
- 50-move draw should be used only after one player has a lone king
- 3x repetition is only claimable with repeated consecutive moves
- For very new players capturing the King wins the game (or, allow the capture only after moving into check a second time)

Well, it's an interesting list of ideas. I expect, like me, that most arbiters' skin is crawling just thinking about them.

But then again - does it seem fair to force a player to lose a piece just because they didn't realise they were in check? Isn't it sometimes heartbreaking to explain that castling is not possible, because the player touched a rook? This can mean 'game over' straight away, instead of deciding the result on the chessboard … and preventing the occasional tear!



If you think about it, it is very unusual in the world of sport for an international organisation to hold an umbrella over all levels of athletes. From beginners, through club amateurs, professionals and all the way to the very top.

Since we have the same rules and rating system for everybody who is interested in chess anywhere in the whole world, maybe it would be worth considering allowing some flexibility for those who are just trying to have fun at their local rated chess event.

And you never know, maybe for some kids this could be the difference between a discouraging experience which gives football the priority, and sticking to chess.

Text by:
IA Jirina Prokopova

You never know, for some, even a minor discouragement could be the difference between choosing to play football and sticking to chess. Maybe even progressing to a fancy tournament with stricter rules and becoming a champion!









In March 2022 edition of the ECU Magazine, we present three positions where White mates in three moves!

SAMUEL RESHEVSKY SAID ABOUT CHESS

>Chess sharpens the mind, stimulates concentration, improves the memory and promotes visualization.

>No matter how much theory progresses, how radically styles change, chess play is inconceivable without tactics.

>Good players develop a tactical instinct, a sense of what is possible or likely and what is not worth calculating.

>It often happens that a player is so fond of his advantageous position that he is reluctant to transpose to a winning endgame.

>We often hear the terms 'positional' and 'tactical' used as opposites. But this is as wrong as to consider a painting's composition unrelated to its subject. Just as there is no such thing as 'artistic' art, so there is no such thing as 'positional' chess.

Solutions from January Magazine

#Puzzle 1:
1.Qg8+! Kxg8 2.Be6!+ Kh8 3.Rg1#

#Puzzle 2:
1.Rf5+!! gxf5 2.Rg7+ Kh6 3.Nf5#

#Puzzle 3:
1.f5+!! gxf5 2.Qxh6+!! gxh6 3.Rag8#

#Puzzle 4:
1.Kc5! b4 2.Kc4! b3 3.axb3#

ECU
European Chess Union



"Chess makes you smarter!"