



Hong Kong International Open Chess Championship 2026

Open & Challengers

organised by the
The Hong Kong China Chess Federation Limited

Funded by Hong Kong Special Administration Region Government
Leisure and Cultural Services Department

1. Invitation

The Hong Kong China Chess Federation Limited (HKCCFL) is honoured to invite chess players from all member federations of **FIDE** to participate in the Hong Kong International Open Chess Championship 2026 (FIDE rated with possible title norms) from the 22nd December 2026 (arrival) and with departure on 29th December 2026.

2. Organising committee

This event is organised by the Hong Kong China Chess Federation Limited and the organising committee shall be nominated by their Board of Directors.

3. Playing Venue

The playing venue shall be at the **Queen Elizabeth Stadium** in Wanchai, Hong Kong. This area is a very busy area, with MTR stations nearby and many facilities.

Location on Google Map - <https://maps.app.goo.gl/QxyDqViaH28UV4ce7>

4. Participation and Conditions

4.1a) *The entry fees of the OPEN category shall be as follows:*

- a) Players with international titles GM, IM, WGM and WIM – free entry
- b) FIDE rated players 1800 and above - HK\$1,500

Please note: because there are possible title norms the organising committee reserves the right to decline entries

4.1b) *The entry fees of the CHALLENGERS category shall be as follows:*

- a) Players with over the board international titles **NO ENTRY (except for WCM)**
- c) Entry fee - HK\$1,500

4.1c) Accreditation fees for accompanying persons HKD 200

Note: Unrated Hong Kong players without FIDE ID need to pay additional HK\$550 for issuing the HKG FIDE ID. Participants from other countries who do not have a FIDE ID need to apply for their FIDE ID at their country's respective federations. *A valid FIDE ID is strictly required for participation.*

4.2) Interested players can register online at <https://2026.hongkongchessopen.com/> and follow the instructions as stated. A confirmation email will be sent to those successful applicants. Foreign entries must make payment on or before 22nd December 2026, those preferring this option must inform the federation in advance by email to hkchessevent@gmail.com.

Local entries pay direct by FPS or bank transfer (see online form)

4.3) The deadline for registration is **12 noon, 1st December 2026**. No more registrations will be accepted after this deadline unless they pay the late surcharge of HKD400.

However, organisers reserve the right to refuse or decline any registrations without giving a reason. **NO REFUNDS** will be given if any player does not attend the event.

4.4) The list of all participants will be published on our website from **1st November 2026**. This acts as confirmation for participation and anyone not on this list will be **excluded**.

4.5) **IMPORTANT NOTICE:**

Players who did not attend player's meeting at 3:30pm on 23rd December 2026 shall not be paired. Those arriving within 30 minutes shall be paired at the discretion of the Chief Arbiter.

5. Travel conditions

There are MTR, public buses and mini buses available from the all points of Kowloon and Hong Kong to the venue. Taxi fares are quite reasonable. Please allow ample time to reach the playing venue as traffic conditions in Hong Kong are among the busiest in the world. (see **3. Playing Venue** for directions)

6. Accommodation

Participants are advised to book early to avoid high walk-in prices prevalent in Hong Kong. Special rates are possible if booked well in advance.

Special conditions for GMs: Free accommodation in five (5) double sharing rooms from 22nd Dec 2026 to 29th Dec 2026. Priority shall be given to those grandmasters rated above 2550 for a single room.

7. Tournament Format

7.1) The tournament will be played using the Swiss System over 9 rounds.

7.2) Rate of play will be 90 minutes for the whole game plus 30 seconds increment starting from move 1

- 7.3) Title norms may be possible depending on the number of titled players.
- 7.4) The latest rules and regulations of FIDE shall apply.
- 7.5) The zero-start tolerance rule shall not apply. Default time will be set at 30 minutes.
- 7.6) *2 defaults/no shows shall be deemed as withdrawal from the tournament.*
- 7.7) No shows will not be paired for the next round unless they sign a declaration.

8. Playing hall - dress code

- 8.1) All players must wear smart casual or formal when in the tournament hall.
- 8.2) All players and audience in the tournament hall must adhere to the rules put forward by the arbiters. Otherwise, they may be asked to leave the tournament hall.
- 8.3) All forms of *electronic equipment* are not allowed within the playing hall. Players should not bring them into the playing area. There is a depository at the entrance before the metal detectors, for all electronic devices.

9. Playing Schedule:

Date	Day	Time	Programme
23 rd Dec	Wednesday	15:30	Players' meeting
		16:00	Round 1
24 th Dec	Thursday	10:00	Round 2
		16:00	Round 3
25 th Dec	Friday	10:00	Round 4
26 th Dec	Saturday	10:00	Round 5
		16:00	Round 6
27 th Dec	Sunday	10:00	Round 7
28 th Dec	Monday	10:00	Round 8
29 th Dec	Tuesday	10:00	Round 9 (final)
		after last game	Closing Ceremony

10. Prizes

10.1)

OPEN CATEGORY	
Rankings	Prizes
1 st	Trophy+ HK\$50,000
2 nd	Medal + HK\$25,000
3 rd	Medal + HK\$12,000
4 th	Medal + HK\$8,000
5 th	Medal + HK\$6,000
6 th	HK\$5,000
7 th	HK\$5,000
8 th	HK\$3,000
9 th	HK\$3,000
10 th	HK\$3,000

10.2)

OPEN & CHALLENGERS CATEGORY PRIZES	
Category	Prizes
Best HKG player overall	Trophy
Best Lady	Trophy with medals for 2 nd & 3 rd
Best U-20	Trophy with medals for 2 nd & 3 rd
Best U-16	Trophy with medals for 2 nd & 3 rd
Best U-12	Trophy with medals for 2 nd & 3 rd

10.3)

CHALLENGERS CATEGORY	
Rankings	Prizes
1 st	Trophy+ HK\$6,000
2 nd	Medal + HK\$4,000
3 rd	Medal + HK\$3,000
4 th	Medal + HK\$2,000
5 th	Medal + HK\$1,000
6 th	HK\$1,000
7 th	HK\$1,000
8 th	HK\$1,000

11. Tiebreak system

11.1) Winners are determined by number of points scored. In case of a tie, the following tie breaks will apply:

- a) Direct Encounter (only if all tied players have played each other)
- b) Greater number of wins (forfeits counted)
- c) Buchholz Cut 1
- d) Performance (rating)
- e) Drawing of lots or similar method (e.g. 2 game Blitz match)

NOTE: there must be a tiebreak for those with highest points.

11.2) **Every prize winner, though eligible for multiple prizes, can only be entitled to 1 cash prize.**

12. Contact information of the Organizing Committee

Website: <https://2026.hongkongchessopen.com/>

All entries please contact

Geoffrey Kao +85296836082 +861381897384

Email: hkchessevent@gmail.com

Appeals Committee:

This shall be declared before the tournament starts. The appeal form will be posted at the venue.

