

“Together We Can”



The 2023 IBCA World Individual Chess Championship for the Blind and Visually Impaired



Island of Rhodes, Greece

October 08-18, 2023



INVITATION



The International Braille Chess Association (IBCA), the Hellenic Sports Federation for Persons with Disabilities and the Chess Club “Ippotis” cordially invite you to the IBCA World Individual Chess Championship for the Blind and Visually Impaired 2023.

1. Dates, location, and venue.

The 2023 IBCA World Individual Chess Championship for the Blind and Visually Impaired will be held in the Island of Rhodes, Greece from **October 8** (Arrival Day) through **October 18** (Departure Day). The tournament will take place in the **Hotel «Rodos Palace Hotel» (*****)**. Please see Technical Regulations below for the detailed **Schedule** section.

2. Eligibility to participate; delegations.

The 2023 IBCA World Individual Chess Championship is open to national Braille chess federations from all member countries.

Every eligible federation can register any number of players (one, two, or more) of any gender. When registering a delegation, every team can designate a team captain. A captain may be one of the players, or another member of this team’s delegation. The national Braille chess federations assume full responsibility for the conduct of their players. Each federation may designate a Head of Delegation; it may either appoint a person exclusively to this office, or entrust the team captain, or one of the players, with this function.

3. Event program.

- Arrival on **October 8, 2023** – Departure on **October 18, 2023**.
- Travel details: **Rodos International airport Diagoras (IATA: RHO)**.
- Pick-up from and drop-off at the international airport will be provided to all the participants who confirm the travel plans no later than **September 02, 2023**.
- The IBCA Congress/elections will take place.
- A free excursion is scheduled.

4. Technical information and schedule.

The tournament will be held under the official IBCA and FIDE rules as a nine-round, Swiss system event, with one round playable per game day. Please see the Tournament Regulations for the 2023 IBCA World Individual Chess Championship for the Blind and Visually Impaired that form an integral part of this Invitation.

5. Chess equipment.

All games in the tournament will be played only on Braille chess sets.

As a condition of its participation, every national delegation shall bring at least two (2) Braille chess set and one (1) Braille clock per every two participating players, plus sufficient writing (recording) equipment.

6. Accommodation packages; registration fees; deposits.

Hotel “RODOS PALACE HOTEL” (*****)

Prices per person with full board (three meals per day)

Room type	Price
Triple room per person per day	63 €
Double room per person per day	74 €
Single room per person per day	95 €

For security reasons, all members of the delegation, including players, captains, coaches, and accompanying persons, shall stay in the official hotel. The Organizing Committee will not accept any person to be a participant who doesn't book in the official hotel. It is the Organizing Committee that is in charge of all hotel registrations. All accommodation requests shall go through the Organizing Committee. No registrations made privately with the hotel will be accepted.

Registration fee: 90 € per player (includes an Organizer's fee of 45 € and an IBCA entry fee of 45 €). The Organizer shall wire the IBCA's portion to the IBCA bank account no later than the start of Round 3.

All delegations must pay a **full registration fee plus a deposit equal to 20%** of the total cost for hotel accommodation no later than **August 15, 2023** to the bank account indicated in the registration form. The advance deposit and registration fee are not refundable.

7. Transportation from and to the airport(s).

Organizers will provide transportation for all participants from / to the **Rhodes International airport Diagoras**. All delegations must send their flight details (dates, times and flight numbers for arrival/departure) to the Organizing Committee no later than **September 02, 2023**.

8. Registration and deadlines.

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Only a duly authorized representative of the National Braille Chess Federation that is the IBCA member in good standing can register a delegation to participate in this tournament. All players, officials, and accompanying persons from the same member country shall be registered as a single delegation by the specified deadline.

When registering a delegation, every National Braille Chess Federation shall use the registration form provided by the Organizer and shall clearly designate:

- players that will compete in the championship (last name, first name, FIDE ID for each),
- a team captain
- head of the delegation (if it wishes to appoint one according to Art.2)
- coaches (if any),
- accompanying persons (if any).

For every participant, last name, first name, FIDE ID, and FIDE title (if any) shall be provided.

The following deadlines shall be respected.

To confirm participation for national federations	no later than July 15 , 2023.
To register all members of a delegation	no later than August 01 , 2023.
To pay a registration fee plus a 20 % deposit (see Art. 6)	no later than August 15 , 2023.
To submit flight details	no later than Sept 02 , 2023.

9. Tournament Principals; additional Arbiters.

In compliance with the appropriate regulations and as per the mutual agreement, the IBCA will appoint Principals and the Organizer will provide the required conditions. The Organizer will appoint additional Arbiters as per FIDE guidelines for a total number of arbiters depending on the competition size.

10. Prizes.

Please see the Tournament Regulations for the 2023 IBCA World Individual Chess Championship for the Blind and Visually Impaired for a complete description of individual prizes,. The prizes will be awarded at the official closing ceremony. All players shall receive their prizes in person.

11. Visa information.

Players and other delegation members who need a visa to enter Greece are requested to contact the Organizer before **July 15**, 2023. The organizer will provide invitations for visas only after the necessary payments are wired, as described in Articles 6 and 8 above.

12. COVID-19 / Vaccination / Medical requirements.

At the moment of publication, no COVID-19 health controls are carried out upon arrival in Greece. The situation may change rapidly. Check the government Web site for up-to-date information:
<https://travel.gov.gr/#/>

During the tournament, all participants shall strictly adhere to the medical protocols established by Greece. The Organizer shall inform registered participants in a timely manner about any changes to the medical requirements.

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If by the time of the tournament PCR or other tests are required pre-departure in order for the participants to return to their home countries, the Organizer will arrange timely access to such tests on-site in Greece. There might be a fee charged for such tests by a medical establishment.

13. Contact information.

Local Organizing Committee

Contact person Giannis Kalesis

E-mail: chess.at.holidays@gmail.com

IBCA contact for general inquiries:

E-mail info@ibca-info.org

Dr. Charudatta Jadhav

IBCA President

Nikolaos Kalesis

IBCA First Vice-President

Tournament Director

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TECHNICAL REGULATIONS

1. Governing regulations.

The 2023 IBCA World Individual Championship for the Blind and Visually Impaired shall be played according to the FIDE Laws of Chess, the FIDE General Regulations for Competitions, the applicable IBCA Rules, and present Technical Regulations. At any time, any circumstance or unforeseen situation not covered by the above regulations shall be referred to the IBCA President for a final decision.

2. Participation.

The IBCA World Individual chess Championship for the Blind and Visually Impaired is open to all players representing the National Braille Chess Federations which are members of the IBCA, regardless of their gender, title or rating. There is no limit to the number of participants per federation.

Only a duly authorized representative of the National Braille Chess Federation that is the IBCA member in good standing (no outstanding debts) can register a delegation to participate in this tournament. All players, officials, and accompanying persons from the same member country shall be registered as a single delegation by the specified deadline. The countries that are in arrears are required to pay their debt to the IBCA in full by the deadline in order to proceed with the registration. The IBCA and the Organizers will not accept any registrations that attempt to circumvent National Braille Chess Federations.

3. Format & system.

The tournament shall be played as a nine (9) round Swiss system event with one round playable per game day.

Pairings will be handled by FIDE certified software under the responsibility of the Pairings Officer and the Chief Arbiter. The starting list and all pairings will use the FIDE Standard Rating List valid at the tournament start date. The tournament will be rated with FIDE.

4. Time control; default time.

The following time control shall be used for all games – (90'end + 30" incr. starting from Move 1), i.e., 90 minutes for each player plus 30 seconds Fischer increment per move starting from the first move.

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If a player arrives at the chessboard with a delay of more than thirty (30) minutes from the actual start of the round, her game will be declared lost by a forfeit.

5. Tie-breaks.

The IBCA tournaments fall under the rubric “Individual Swiss Tournaments where not all the ratings are consistent”, so the recommendations of Annex 3, Art. 13.16.1 of the FIDE General Regulations for Competitions are applied.

The final ranking order of the players is determined by the number of points scored. If at the end of the tournament, two or more players are tied, the tie shall be broken as follows:

- Buchholz Cut 1
- Buchholz
- Sonneborn-Berger
- Direct encounter
- The greater number of wins including forfeits

6. Schedule.

Day of the week	Date	Time	Activity
Sunday	October 8		All Day Arrivals
Monday	October 9	10:00	Technical Meeting
Monday	October 9	15:30	Opening Ceremony
Monday	October 9	16:00	Round 1
Tuesday	October 10	16:00	Round 2
Wednesday	October 11	16:00	Round 3
Thursday	October 12	16:00	Round 4
Friday	October 13	10:00	Excursion for participants
Friday	October 13	16:00	Round 5
Saturday	October 14	16:00	Round 6
Sunday	October 15	10:00	IBCA Congress
Sunday	October 15	16:00	Round 7
Monday	October 16	16:00	Round 8
Tuesday	October 17	14:00	Round 9
Tuesday	October 17	21:30	Closing Ceremony
Wednesday	October 18		All Day Departures

7. Player conduct.

All participants are bound by the Laws of Chess and shall behave at all times during the tournament in accordance with the IBCA and FIDE statutes and the highest principles of sportsmanship.

The players are expected to be present at all official events approved by the IBCA and the Organizer, including the Opening and the Closing ceremonies.

The players are expected to attend the Technical Meeting. If necessary, the Chief Arbiter may call other Technical Meetings.

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The players are expected to co-operate with the media and be available for short interviews immediately after each game.

The players shall comply with the requirements of FIDE Regulations (FIDE Handbook, §C.01, Article 8.1) to maintain their dignified appearance at all times during the event.

8. Fair play; electronic equipment.

Fair Play measures will be in place as per the FIDE Anti-Cheating Guidelines. With the sole exception of the move recording equipment, during a game players and captains are forbidden to have any electronic device not specifically approved by the arbiter in the playing venue. Such devices may be stored in a player's bag, provided the device is completely switched off. This bag must be placed as agreed with the arbiter and the player is forbidden to use this bag without the arbiter's permission. Accompanying persons or spectators are forbidden to use electronic devices at the playing venue except for photography when explicitly approved by the arbiter.

9. Appeals Committee.

The IBCA and the Organizer will nominate the Chairman and two (2) other members of the Appeals Committee, as well as two (2) reserve members, all from different National Braille Chess Federations. All names shall be announced no later than at the start of the Technical Meeting before Round 1.

None of the three (3) members of the Appeals Committee shall sit in judgment in a dispute involving a player from his National Braille Chess Federations. A reserve member takes his place in such a case.

A protest can be lodged only by a player or a head of delegation. All protests shall be submitted to the Appeals Committee in writing not more than one (1) hour after the completion of relevant game, or an alleged occurrence of an infringement complained against.

Each protest must be accompanied by a deposit fee of one hundred (100) Euros. If the protest is accepted, the fee shall be returned. If the protest is rejected, the fee shall be forfeited to the IBCA.

The Appeals Committee may decide on the following matters:

- a) an appeal against a decision by an arbiter,
- b) a protest against a player's or a captain's behavior,
- c) all other matters which the Committee considers relevant.

The written decision of the Appeals Committee arising from any dispute is final.

10. Prizes.

The player who wins the championship will be declared the 2023 IBCA World Individual Champion and will be awarded a trophy. The players who win the first, second and third places will be awarded gold, silver, and bronze medals, respectively.