

“Together We Can”



The 2023 IBCA European Team Chess Championship for the Blind and Visually Impaired



Genoa, Italy

April 19-30, 2023

INVITATION

The International Braille Chess Association (IBCA) and the Italian Amateur Blind Chess Association (ASCID, the Organizer) cordially invite you to the IBCA European Team Chess Championship for the Blind and Visually Impaired 2023.

1. Dates, location, and venue.

The 2023 IBCA European Team Chess Championship for the Blind and Visually Impaired will be held in Genoa, Italy from **April 19** (Arrival Day) through **April 30** (Departure Day). The tournament will take place in the **Tower Genova Airport Hotel**, 4 stars, in Genoa.

2. Eligibility to participate; delegations.

The 2023 IBCA European Team Chess Championship is open to national Braille chess federations from all European countries that do not have unresolved financial obligations to the IBCA. Any federation that is in arrears with respect to their dues or fees payable to the IBCA shall settle this debt no later than **January 31**, 2023 in order to be eligible to participate.

Every eligible federation can register any number of teams (one, two, or more). If a federation registers more than one team, they shall be named in a uniform manner, with the country name always coming first, e.g. Italy One, Italy Two; or, Italy Green, Italy White, Italy Red.

Every team shall include four (4) players and up to two (2) reserves. The IBCA and the Organizer encourage participation of female players; special prizes will be established for mixed-gender teams and the best-performing women (see Prizes section below). Board order within any registered team shall comply with the Technical Regulations (see below).

When registering a delegation, every team shall designate a team captain. A captain may be one of the players or the reserve, 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 or reserves, with this function.

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3. Event program.

- Arrival on **April 19, 2023** – Departure on **April 30, 2023**.
- Travel details: **Genoa International Airport "Cristoforo Colombo"** (IATA: GOA) or **Central Railway Station "Genova Principe"**.
- Pick-up from and drop-off to the international airport or the railway station will be provided to all the participants who confirm the travel plans no later than **March 15, 2023**.
- The rest day is scheduled for April 25 – Liberation Day, a national holiday in Italy. Participants are welcome to join celebrations. A free excursion is planned as well.

4. Technical information and schedule.

The tournament will be held under the official IBCA and FIDE rules. Please see the Tournament Regulations for the 2023 IBCA European Team 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 team (four players and up to two reserves) shall bring four (4) Braille chess sets, two (2) Braille clocks, and sufficient writing (recording) equipment.

6. Accommodation packages; registration fees; deposits.

Tower Genova Airport Hotel, 4 stars: *Via Pionieri ed Aviatori d'Italia, 44 - 16154 Genova, Italy.*
<https://towergenova.ideahotel.it/en/>

Prices per person with full board (3 meals per day)

Room type	Price
Triple room per person per day	77 €
Double room per person per day	80 €
Single room per person per day	110 €

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.

Registration fee: **300 € per team** (includes an Organizer's fee of 150 € and an IBCA entry fee of 150 €). 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 30%** of the total cost for hotel accommodation no later than **February 15, 2023** to the following bank account:

Bank Name: Intesa Sanpaolo.
Bank Address: Via Fieschi 11/F, 16121 Genova (GE) Italy.
Holder Name: Comitato Organizzatore Locale Genova Senza Barriere.
Holder's Address: Via Caffaro 6 / 1, - 16124 Genova (GE) Italy.

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BIC/SWIFT code: BCITITMM
Account number (IBAN): IT 63N 03069 09606 100000191136

7. Transportation from and to the airport / railway station.

Organizers will provide transportation for all participants from / to the Genoa International Airport "*Cristoforo Colombo*" and from / to the city's central railway station "*Genova Principe*". All delegations must send their flight / train details (date, time and flight / train numbers for arrival/departure) to the organizing committee no later than **March 15, 2023**.

8. Registration and deadlines.

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. The countries that are in arrears are required to pay their debt to the IBCA in full 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.

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

- four (4) players (last name, first name, FIDE ID for each) in the preferred board order ,
- up to two (2) reserves,
- 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.

- | | |
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| To confirm participation for national teams | no later than January 31, 2023 . |
| To register all members of a delegation | no later than February 15, 2023 . |
| To pay a deposit (see Art. 6) | no later than February 15, 2023 . |
| To submit flight details | no later than March 15, 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 European Team Chess Championship for the Blind and Visually Impaired for a complete description of the team and individual prizes, including those for mixed-gender teams and the best-performing women. 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 Italy are requested to contact the Organizer before **February 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.

Starting June 01, 2022 the green pass is no more required to enter in Italy from EU Member States and other foreign countries. See the government Web site for more information:

<https://www.salute.gov.it/portale/nuovocoronavirus/dettaglioContenutiNuovoCoronavirus.jsp>

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

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 Genoa. There might be a fee charged for such tests by a medical establishment.

13. Contact information.

Local Organizing Committee GENOVA SENZA BARRIERE:

E-mail: tornei@genovasenzabarriere.org

Website: www.genovasenzabarriere.org

IBCA contact for general inquiries:

E-mail info@ibca-info.org

Signed on this 30th day of November, 2022



Dr. Charudatta Jadhav
IBCA President

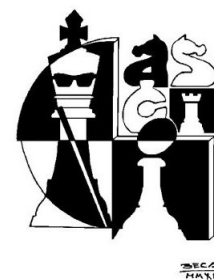


Bersan Vrioni
President, the Italian Amateur Blind
Chess Association (ASCID)

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Genoa, Italy

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TECHNICAL REGULATIONS

14. Governing regulations.

The 2023 IBCA European Team 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.

15. Team composition; team lists.

As per the Invitation, every team shall include four (4) players and up to two (2) reserves. When registering a delegation, every team shall designate a team captain. A captain may be one of the players or the reserve, or another member of this team's delegation.

The captain shall submit the preferred board order (“starting list”) for his team by the start of the Technical Meeting (see Art. 7 “Schedule”). If a team captain does not submit such a list on time, the board order for that team is fixed in the order that the delegation used when sending its registration, subject to the rating difference condition below.

The board order for every team shall comply with the following condition. For every pair of players (P1, P2) on the same team where player P1's FIDE standard rating is more than ninety-nine (99) points higher than player P2's FIDE standard rating, player P1 shall be assigned to a higher board than player P2. All ratings are according to the April 2023 FIDE Rating List.

As per the FIDE Regulations (FIDE Handbook, §C.10, Article 7.1) the captain is required to deliver at a specific time a written list naming the players in his team participating in each round, If the list is not delivered by the required time, the team list for that round shall be the first four named players in the “starting list”. The times required to deliver the lists for each round will be announced at the Technical Meeting. The captain shall communicate the board order and the pairings to his players.

16. Format & system.

The tournament shall be played as a nine (9) round Swiss system event. The teams listed first in each pairing shall have the White pieces on the odd-numbered boards and the Black pieces on the even-numbered boards.

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17. Time control; default time.

The time control per player shall be (90’/end + 30” incr. starting from Move 1), i.e. ninety minutes for the whole game plus thirty seconds Fischer increment starting from the first move.

As per the FIDE Regulations (FIDE Handbook, §C.10, Article 7.2) at the start of any round a participating team has to be present with more than 50% players. If 50% or less of the players are present at the start of any round the players present are not allowed to start their games. If a player arrives at the chessboard with a delay of more than thirty (30) minutes from the actual start of the round, his game will be declared lost by a forfeit.

18. Tie-breaks.

Each match is scored by match points. A winner gets two (2) points, a draw gives one (1) point to each team, a loss – zero (0) points.

At the completion of the event, teams are ranked by the most number of match points in the final group standings. If two (2) or more teams score the same number of match points, the tie is broken as follows:

- a) Total number of game points.
- b) Direct encounter (the results of the matches between the teams involved in the tie).
- c) Buchholz Cut 1.
- d) Sonneborn-Berger for Team Tournaments A: the sum of the products of the match points made by each opposing team and the match points made against that team.
- e) If the tie still is not broken, then a drawing of lots is done.

19. Schedule.

Day of the week	Date	Time	Activity
Wednesday	April 19		Arrival
Thursday	April 20	10:00	Technical Meeting
Thursday	April 20	11:00	Opening Ceremony
Thursday	April 20	15:00	Round 1
Friday	April 21	15:00	Round 2
Saturday	April 22	15:00	Round 3
Sunday	April 23	15:00	Round 4
Monday	April 24	15:00	Round 5
Tuesday	April 25*		Free day. Excursion for participants.
Wednesday	April 26	15:00	Round 6
Thursday	April 27	15:00	Round 7
Friday	April 28	15:00	Round 8
Saturday	April 29	09:30	Round 9
Saturday	April 29	16:00	Closing Ceremony
Sunday	April 30		Departure

* *Festa della liberazione* (Liberation Day), national holiday in Italy.

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

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.

21. 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.

22. 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/team 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 team captain. 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.

23. Prizes.

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10.1. Main prizes.

The team that wins the championship will be declared the 2023 IBCA European Team Champion. The teams that won the first, second and third places will be awarded trophies. Players on the teams that won the first, second and third places will be awarded gold, silver, and bronze medals, respectively.

10.2 Individual board prizes

Players assigned to the same board number in their respective team lists shall be in competition for individual board prizes, namely: gold, silver, and bronze medals. For the purposes of this award, the players' performance ratings shall be compared. The highest performance rating wins. In case of a tie, it shall be broken in order of priority by:

- a) number of games played (the highest number wins);
- b) percentage score (the highest number wins);
- c) final ranking of a team (the player on the highest ranked team wins).

For Boards 1-4, only players who have played a minimum of six (6) games shall be eligible for board prizes. For Board 5, only players who have played a minimum of five (5) games shall be eligible for board prizes

10.3 Prizes encouraging women's participation

To encourage and celebrate women's participation, the IBCA and the Organizer will award the following prizes to the mixed-gender teams:

- One (1) trophy called “The Best Performing Mixed-Gender Team” will be awarded to the highest-placed team that has both female and male players provided there are at least three (3) mixed-gender teams registered for the Championship.

- One (1) trophy called “The Runner-Up Mixed-Gender Team” will be awarded to the second-highest-placed team that has both female and male players provided there are at least five (5) mixed-gender teams registered for the Championship.

If at the completion of the competition there are at least five (5) women players who played at least five (5) games each, the Organizer will award gold, silver, and bronze medals for the three best-performing women. Women who played a minimum of five (5) games shall be eligible. The highest performance rating wins, regardless of the board number. In case of a tie, it shall be broken in order of priority by:

- a) number of games played (the highest number wins);
- b) percentage score (the highest number wins);
- c) final ranking of a team (the player on the highest ranked team wins).