

**CHESS HUB – MCF CHESS VENTURE**  
PRESENTS



**CHESS HUB – MCF GM IM INVITATIONAL  
CHESS CHAMPIONSHIP 2025**

Chess Hub @ Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia  
27<sup>th</sup> July to 3<sup>rd</sup> August 2025

**INVITATION**

The Malaysian Chess Federation (MCF) together with its main sponsor – Chess Hub Sdn Bhd, cordially invites participation from Grandmasters (GMs), International Masters (IMs), Women Grandmasters (WGM) and all players with an active FIDE Standard Rating of above 2000 (and selected local players below FIDE Standard Rating of 2000) to participate at the first ever **Cheess Hub – MCF GM IM Invitational Chess Championship 2025**.

This inaugural event is aimed at promoting quality chess tournaments in Malaysia with the presence of Grandmasters and International Masters to participate in a limited field of no more than 40 players contesting over 9 rounds of play using Swiss system. The tournament will also provide opportunities for local players to earn norms and improve valuable FIDE rating points by playing high quality games against reputable strong players from all over the world.

The event is scheduled to take place from the 27<sup>th</sup> of July 2025 to the 3<sup>rd</sup> of August 2025 at Chess Hub Kuala Lumpur.

**TOURNAMENT RULES AND REGULATIONS**

**1. ELIGIBILITY**

- 1.1. The event is limited to no more than 40 players comprising of local and foreign players, Open and Women. Acceptance to participate in the event is either by individual invitation or approved application by the organizing committee.
- 1.2. The organizer plans to invite/reserve participation for between eight(8) and ten(10) Grandmasters (GMs), and between four(4) and six(6) foreign International Masters (IM)/Women Grandmasters (WGM) to participate in the event. WGM shall be considered as IM equivalent on the package offered.
- 1.3. The organizer will reserve between ten(10) and sixteen(16) entries for potential and promising young Malaysian players who will be invited to participate in the event.
- 1.4. The organizer will reserve the remaining seats to be opened to all other players – local or foreign, who are accepted subject to MCF and Chess Hub approval. A minimum FIDE Rating of 2000 is preferred to ensure the possibility of norms.
- 1.5. As the event is aimed at providing a high-quality standard chess event for local players, and opportunities for all participants to earn norms and rating points, the organizer may limit the number of players from a federation (except Malaysia) to no more than six(6) participants.

- 1.6. All players participating in the Championship must have a FIDE ID. All Malaysians must have an additional MCF ID to participate in the event.
- 1.7. All players are accepted at the discretion of the Malaysian Chess Federation (MCF) as the organizing body, and Chess Hub Sdn Bhd as the main sponsor and co-organizer. As such, both MCF and Chess Hub reserve the rights to reject or cancel any application without providing any reasons whatsoever

## 2. REGISTRATION/ENTRY FEES

Registration and Entry Fees, and Procedures.

- 2.1. **ALL GM/IM/WGM and Players that have been invited to participate, or is interested to participate**, must confirm their participation by sending an official email to the Organizer at [mcfsecretariat@malaysiachess.org](mailto:mcfsecretariat@malaysiachess.org) and [info@chesshub.co](mailto:info@chesshub.co) before **Sunday, 22<sup>nd</sup> June 2025**
- 2.2. The organizer will confirm all participations and entries for all GM/IM/WGM and other invited players no later than **Monday, 30<sup>th</sup> June 2025** to allow for the necessary arrangements for accommodation, meals, transport and travel.

**NOTE: For GMs/IMs/GMs/Invited players (Item 2.1 and 2.2), if confirmation or acceptance are received after the 1st of July 2025, the participant will be treated as a normal entry and will have to manage their own accommodation, meals and transportation. Players will also not be eligible/entitled for additional allowances – if any, that is provided by the organizer**

- 2.3. The organizer may request a Security Deposit of RM500 from an invited player. The Security Deposit is refundable only when the player has completed playing in all the rounds and games scheduled.
- 2.4. All Other Entries/Open Entries applications must be submitted to the official email address at [mcfsecretariat@malaysiachess.org](mailto:mcfsecretariat@malaysiachess.org) before the 1<sup>st</sup> of July 2025. The Organizer will evaluate all applications received, and successful registration will be confirmed before 5<sup>th</sup> of July 2025. ALL FEES for Open Entries must be completed before the 15<sup>th</sup> of July 2025, as per the following rates:

### 2.4.1. Entry Fee

Malaysians	USD 350 (FIDE Standard Rating Above 2000) USD 500 (FIDE Standard Rating Below 2000) <i>Note: Limited entry for players below 2000</i>
Foreigners	USD 400 (FIDE Standard Rating Above 2000) <i>NOTE: Players below FIDE Standard Rating of 2000 will NOT BE ACCEPTED</i>

### 2.4.2. Closing Date

The Closing Date for ALL ENTRIES is 15<sup>th</sup> of July 2025. Entries received and accepted AFTER this date shall incur an additional penalty fee of 100 USD, and subject to Organizers' discretion/space limitations.

No entries will be entertained after the 20th of July 2025.

- 2.5. Players who have agreed and/or have accepted the offer to play but are not able to make it are requested to write in to the organizer at the official email address and provide a reason for not being able to compete in the event.

For any refund requested, please refer to **14. REFUND POLICY**

### 3. ACCOMMODATION

3.1. The first ten (10) Grandmasters (GM) and six (6) International Masters (IM)/Women Grandmasters (WGM) with a FIDE Standard Rating of 2300 or higher will be provided with accommodation in either single rooms or twin-sharing rooms.

3.2. All Invited Players (Malaysians) will be provided with accommodation in twin sharing rooms on a first-come first-served basis depending on room availability.

**NOTE:** For all GMs/IMs/WGMs/Invited Players, the Organizer reserves the right to rearrange the rooming arrangements according to the rooms' availability as and when it deems appropriate. This includes arranging additional rooms at nearby hotels as and when necessary.

3.3. All GMs/IMs/WGMs/Invited Players who decided to decline the offer of accommodation can make their own arrangement, but the Organizer will not entertain any request for compensation, replacement or reimbursement.

3.4. All the participants are free to make their own arrangements for accommodation. However, we encourage players to take up accommodation at the official hotels as transportation will only be provided from this location.

3.5. The Official Hotels for GMs/IMs/WGMs/Invited Players shall be at either of the following:

a. Oakwood Hotel and Residence  
No. 222 Jalan Ampang, 50450 Kuala Lumpur  
Wilayah Persekutuan Kuala Lumpur  
(12 to 15 minutes driving to the playing venue)

b. Grand Barakah Hotel  
No 2, Jalan Ampang, Palm Square  
68000 Ampang Jaya, Selangor  
(7 to 10 minutes driving / 20-25 minutes walking to playing venue)

Transportation will be provided from these hotels at agreed intervals (Please refer to item 5. TRANSPORTATION)

### 4. OTHER ALLOWANCES OFFERED

4.1. The organizer will provide **flight reimbursement** of up to the following rate:

	GM	IM/WGM
ASEAN Countries (up to)	RM650 (USD150)	RM450 (USD100)
ASIA/AUS/NZ Countries (up to)	RM1300 (USD300)	RM650 (USD150)
Europe/Americas (up to)	RM2000 (USD450)	RM1000 (USD230)

Note: Or up to 50% of flight cost – whichever is lower

Reimbursement of ticket cost will only be given after arrival in Kuala Lumpur by providing the original ticket and proof of payment.

4.2. The organizer will provide additional meal allowances of up to RM150 per day (approx. USD35 per day) or lunch/dinner of equivalent value for all Grandmaster (GM)/International Master (IM)/Women Grandmaster (WGM) on the tournament playing days.

## 5. TRANSPORTATION

5.1. Airport Transfers for all international arrivals at KLIA 1 or KLIA 2 on the 27<sup>th</sup> of July can be arranged at no cost. Airport transfers for arrivals on other dates shall be at each player's own responsibility. Airport transfers for departure will be arranged separately.

All flight information shall be sent to the organizer at the following email addresses [mcfsecretariat@malaysiachess.org](mailto:mcfsecretariat@malaysiachess.org) and [info@chesshub.co](mailto:info@chesshub.co) before the **13<sup>th</sup> of July 2025** failing which, players will have to make their own transfer arrangements.

5.2. The organizer will arrange transportation for players staying at the designated hotels to the playing venue – and return trips, at scheduled intervals during the playing days.

5.3. Players – including GMs, IMs, WGMs who decided to make their own arrangements for accommodation, and all other players not staying at the designated hotels, shall be responsible for their own transportation – to and return, from the hotel to the playing venue.

5.4. Players who missed the transport arrangements will have to make their own pickup arrangements from the hotel to the event venue and/or vice versa.

## 6. VISA / LETTER OF INVITATION

6.1. Players requiring VISA to enter Malaysia, or requesting an official letter of invitation to participate at the GM/IM Invitational Championship, are requested to write to [mcfsecretariat@malaysiachess.org](mailto:mcfsecretariat@malaysiachess.org) and include the following details:

- 6.1.1. Scan copy of Passport indicating Full Name, Date of Birth, Place of Issue and Date of Expiry
- 6.1.2. Full Home Address
- 6.1.3. Contact Number
- 6.1.4. Email Address
- 6.1.5. Employer/Company Name (with Contact Person) – if necessary
- 6.1.6. Employer Full Address – if necessary
- 6.1.7. Designation/Position in Company – if necessary

## 7. ADD ON PROGRAMS FOR GRANDMASTERS and INTERNATIONAL MASTERS

7.1. **Grandmasters (GM)/International Masters (IM)/Women Grandmasters (WGM) will have the option to participate in Chess Training and Promotion Programs organized by Chess Hub Sdn Bhd.** This is part of the Chess Hub Sdn Bhd Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) program for the local chess community.

7.2. Accommodations and additional Allowances shall be provided and arranged separately by the organizer throughout the duration of the add-on programs.

7.3. The add-on Program is scheduled to start from the 4<sup>th</sup> of August until the 10<sup>th</sup> of August 2025. Additional days beyond the 10<sup>th</sup> of August may be available and can be arranged if interested.

7.4. Grandmasters (GMs), International Masters (IMs) and Women Grandmasters (WGM) keen to join the program, are requested to inform the organizer when registering for the program. Please take note that this is an optional program with limited acceptance.

## 8. TOURNAMENT FORMAT

The tournament format shall be as follows:

### 8.1. Pairing System & Number of Rounds

The tournament will be conducted using Swiss Manager Pairing System for nine(9) rounds and shall be in accordance with the FIDE Laws of Chess.

### 8.2. Time Control

This is a Standard event using a time control of 90 minutes with an increment of 30 seconds per move from move number one per player per game.

### 8.3. Final Ranking

In the end of the tournament, the final ranking of the players will be determined according to the number of points earned – 1 point for a win, 0.5 point for a draw, and 0 point for a loss

### 8.4. Tiebreaker

For tie break, the following shall be used (in the displayed order as per below):

- 8.4.1. Direct Encounter
- 8.4.2. Greater number of wins (forfeit and byes counted)
- 8.4.3. Buchholz Cut 1
- 8.4.4. Buchholz
- 8.4.5. Sonneborn Berger

## 9. SCHEDULE

The tournament schedule is as follows:

DAY	DATE	DAY	TIME	AGENDA
Day 1	27 Jul, 25	Sun	All Day	Arrival
Day 2	28 Jul, 25	Mon	10:00am	Players Briefing
			2:00pm	Opening
			3:00pm	Round 1
Day 3	29 Jul, 25	Tue	9:00am	Round 2
			3:00pm	Round 3
Day 4	30 Jul, 25	Wed	3:00pm	Round 4
Day 5	31 Jul, 25	Thu	9:00am	Round 5
			3:00pm	Round 6
Day 6	1 Aug, 25	Fri	FREE DAY	
Day 7	2 Aug, 25	Sat	9:00am	Round 7
			3:00pm	Round 8
Day 8	3 Aug, 25	Sun	10:00am	Round 9
			3:00pm	Closing and Prize Giving
			3:30pm	Hi Tea
			4:00pm	Departure

Schedule for add-on programs shall be furnished only to those who agree to participate in the event. The add-on program shall commence from Monday, the 4<sup>th</sup> of August 2025 until Sunday, the 10<sup>th</sup> of August 2025.

Additional day beyond these dates is also available but requiring further discussion with the Malaysian Chess Federation and Chess Hub Sdn Bhd.

## 10. TROPHIES, MEDALS & CERTIFICATES

Trophies, medals, certificates, and cash prizes offered are as follows:

### 10.1. Cash Prizes

The cash prizes offered (in RM) to all the winners are as follows:

Champion	RM 10,000 (approximately USD 2,300)
Runner Up	RM 5,000 (approximately USD 1,150)
Third	RM 3,000 (approximately USD 675)
Fourth	RM 2,000 (approximately USD 450)
5 <sup>th</sup> to 8 <sup>th</sup>	RM 1,000 (approximately USD 230)
Best Women	RM 1,000 (approximately USD 230)
Best Malaysian	RM 1,000 (approximately USD 230)

### 10.2. Trophies and Medals

A Challenger Trophy will be presented to the tournament Champion along with the event Gold Medal and a Certificate of Excellence

The tournament Runner Up will receive a Silver Medal and a Certificate of Achievement, whilst the Second Runner Up will receive a Bronze Medal and a Certificate of Achievement. All other winners will earn a Consolation Medal with Certificates of Achievement.

The Best Women and Best Malaysian winners will each receive Gold Medals and Certificate of Excellence.

### 10.3. Certificates of Participation

All other participants will receive e-Certificates of Participation

## 11. EVENT OFFICIALS AND APPEALS COMMITTEE

11.1. The event main officials are as follows:

Organizer	Najib Abdul Wahab (AO / MCF Gen. Sec)
Tournament Director	Adam Hafiz Jaffri Malim (FA)
Chief Arbiter	Syawal Aqmar Shahrir Ariff (IA)

11.2. The Chairman of the Appeals Committee shall be nominated by the Malaysian Chess Federation prior to the start of the event.

11.3. The Appeals Committee shall compose of one(1) chairman and two(2) members and two(2) reserves, chosen from among the representatives and/or players present at the tournament preferably from different countries and nationalities.

## 12. APPEALS

Appeal process against the decision of Chief Arbiter or any of his assistants is as follows:

12.1. Any appeals of protest, including appeals against the decision of the Chief Arbiter or any of his assistants, must be submitted in writing to the Chairman of the Appeals Committee within thirty (30) minutes after completion of the disputed game, accompanied by protest fee of USD120 or RM500 in local currency. If the protest is upheld, the protest fee will be returned or otherwise forfeited.

12.2. All decisions made or recommendations proposed by the Appeals Committee shall be considered as final. No further appeal will be entertained.

### 13. PAYMENT

For Open entries, all payments must be made to the Malaysian Chess Federation official bank accounts as per following details. All bank charges must be managed and paid by the sender.

Account Name	PERSEKUTUAN CATUR MALAYSIA
Bank Name	CIMB
Bank Account	8000649725
Swift Code	CIBBMYKL
Bank Address	CIMB Bank Berhad (Jalan TAR Branch) Ground Floor, Bangunan Commerce Life, No 338, Jalan Tuanku Abdul Rahman, 50100 Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia

### 14. REFUND POLICY

For all paid entries, NO REQUEST FOR REFUND shall be entertained **after the closing date of 15<sup>th</sup> July 2025**. Only a 50% refund shall be given for cancellation requested BEFORE the closing date.

All bank charges imposed by the bank – if any, shall be borne by each player themselves.

### 15. CONTACT DETAILS

For further information or clarification with regards to the Championship, please contact the following:

- I. Najib Abdul Wahab  
Chief Organizer (FIDE Associate Organizer – AO)  
Honorary Secretary, Malaysian Chess Federation  
Email: [mcfsecretariat@malaysiachess.org](mailto:mcfsecretariat@malaysiachess.org)  
Mobile: +6016.338.2542
  
- II. Adam Jaffri Hafiz Malim  
Tournament Director (FIDE Arbiter – FA)  
Manager, Chess Hub Sdn Bhd  
Email: [info@chesshub.co](mailto:info@chesshub.co)  
Mobile: +6011.5417.2593
  
- III. Syawal Aqmar Shahrir Ariff  
Chief Arbiter (International Arbiter – IA)  
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