



الهيئة العامة للرياضة
Public Authority for Sport



2nd Kuwait International Chess Festival

15th to 24th January 2026

About the Festival

Kuwait Chess Federation, with its prominent activities across Kuwait, is proud to announce the historical second chess Festival for various categories, featuring top players from around the world. This tournament is open to all FIDE players, of all ages and skill levels, and offers a chance to showcase your talent, relish and compete for prizes.

By the Kuwait Chess Federation & Chess House Academy– Kuwait

1. Festival Events:

- **1.1 Masters:** Open to all Fide rated players with standard rating of 1900 ELO and above with an exception for all Kuwait Players and GCC Players, the tournament will be (9) Rounds Swiss System with a time control of 90 minutes for the first 40 moves followed by 30 minutes for the rest of the game with an addition of 30 seconds per move starting from move one.
- **1.2 Challengers:** Open to all players with FIDE ID, The Tournament will be (9) Rounds Swiss System with Time Control of 60 Minutes plus 30 Seconds Increment from Move No.1.
- **1.3 Ladies:** Open to all players with FIDE ID, The Tournament will be (9) Rounds Swiss System with Time Control of 60 Minutes plus 30 Seconds Increment from Move No.1.
- **1.4 Rapid:** Open to all Player with FIDE ID, the tournament will be (9) Rounds with the Time Control of 10 Minutes plus 3 Seconds increment from Move No.1.
- **1.5 Blitz:** Open to all Player with FIDE ID, the tournament will be (9) Rounds with the Time Control of 3 Minutes plus 2 Seconds increment from Move No. 1



2. Events Schedule:

	Masters	Challengers	Ladies	Rapid	Blitz
14 January Wednesday	Arrival				
15 January Thursday	R1 05:00 P.M.	R1 05:15 P.M.	R1 05:20 P.M.		
16 January Friday	R2 05:00 P.M.	R2 05:10 P.M.	R2 05:10 P.M.		
17 January Saturday	R3 05:00 P.M.	R3 05:10 P.M.	R3 05:10 P.M.		
18 January Sunday	R4 05:00 P.M.	R4 05:10 P.M.	R4 05:10 P.M.		
19 January Monday				Starts at: 04:00 P.M.	Starts at: 11:00 A.M.
20 January Tuesday	R5 05:00 P.M.	R5 05:10 P.M.	R5 05:10 P.M.		
21 January Wednesday	R6 05:00 P.M.	R6 05:10 P.M.	R6 05:10 P.M.		
22 January Thursday	R7 05:00 P.M.	R7 05:10 P.M.	R7 05:10 P.M.		
23 January Friday	R8 05:00 P.M.	R8 05:10 P.M.	R8 05:10 P.M.		
24 January Saturday	R9 11:00 A.M.	R9 11:10 A.M.	R9 11:10 A.M.		
Closing Ceremony & Prize Distribution: 07:30 P.M. on 24th January 2025					



3. Prizes:

3.1. Masters (Total: \$ 9,300.00)

Place	Prize (USD)
1 st	\$ 2400.00
2 nd	\$ 1800.00
3 rd	\$ 1200.00
4 th	\$ 900.00
5 th	\$ 800.00
6 th	\$ 600.00
7 th	\$ 500.00
8 th	\$ 400.00
9 th	\$ 300.00
10 th	\$ 200.00
Best Kuwaiti Player	\$ 200.00

3.2. Challengers (Total: \$ 1,640.00)

Place	Prize (USD)
1 st	\$ 400.00
2 nd	\$ 230.00
3 rd	\$ 165.00
Best Kuwaiti Player	\$ 165.00
1 st U1800	\$ 130.00
2 nd U1800 – (kw)	\$ 100.00
1 st Juniors (U18)	\$ 130.00
2 nd Juniors (U18)	\$ 100.00
1 st Veteran 55+	\$ 130.00
2 nd Veteran 55+ (kw)	\$ 100.00

3.3. Ladies (Total: \$ 1,615.00)

Place	Prize (USD)
1 st	\$ 400.00
2 nd	\$ 230.00
3 rd	\$ 165.00
Best Kuwaiti Female	\$ 130.00
1 st U1800	\$ 130.00
2 nd U1800	\$ 100.00
1 st Juniors (U18)	\$ 130.00
2 nd Juniors (U18)	\$ 100.00
1 st Veteran 55+	\$ 130.00
2 nd Veteran 55+ (kw)	\$ 100.00

3.4. Rapid & Blitz (Total: \$1,110.00) (Each: \$ 555.00)

Place	Prize (USD)
1 st	\$ 130.00
2 nd	\$ 100.00
3 rd	\$ 65.00
1 st KUW	\$ 65.00
2 nd Juniors (U18)	\$ 65.00
2 nd Juniors (U18)	\$ 65.00
Best Female overall	\$ 65.00

❖ The Prizes will be awarded based on Tie Break and will not be shared. A player cannot be awarded more than one Prize in a tournament, and he/she will be awarded the highest prize only.

❖ All Players will receive participation certificates digitally.

❖ Prize winners are obliged to follow the dress code of Business Casual/Elegant Casual or smart casual. No Shorts, Hats, Caps, Sneakers or Slippers.



4. Tie Breaks:

1.1 Direct Encounter

1.2 Buchholz

1.3 Sonneborn Berger (SB)

1.4 Great Number of Victories with Black



5. Registration

- 5.1. Registration is accepted online via the following link. <https://www.kmsa-kw.com>.
- 5.2. The deadline of registration is before the 1 December 2026.
- 5.3. Entry fee and related payments must be paid to confirm the registration.
- 5.4. All participating players and accompanying persons accept to fully comply with the regulations of the tournament and the organizer.
- 5.5. Organizing committee reserves the right to accept or deny a participant's registration in accordance with FIDE Rules and Regulations, and Kuwait Laws.
- 5.6. To Register please fill up this form: <https://forms.gle/mZm3vU7aSjpt4wfV8> or scan the above QR-Code.

Tournament	Rating	Entry fees Before 10 th December	Entry fees After 10 th December
Masters	Rating 2300-2399 & IM's Below 2300, WIM's Below 2200	\$ 40.00	\$ 65.00
	Rating (2201-2299)	\$ 50.00	\$ 75.00
	Rating (2100-2199)	\$ 60.00	\$ 85.00
	Rating (1900-2000)	\$ 70.00	\$ 95.00
	All GCC Players including Kuwait players (Above 1700)	\$ 50.00	\$ 90.00
Challengers	All Players	\$ 50.00	\$ 90.00
Ladies	All Players	\$ 50.00	\$ 70.00
Rapid	All Players	\$ 40.00	\$ 55.00
Blitz	All Players	\$ 40.00	\$ 55.00



6. General Rules, Regulations & Useful information

6.1 Hotel Accommodation: Players must stay in the same hotel of playing area. If they need any help with hotel booking, the Organizer will assist you with it.

6.2 All Players are expected to adhere to the dress code (Business casual, elegant casual, or smart casual dress code, shorts and slippers are not always allowed) during the event. This includes the playing hall and awards ceremony. Participants who do not comply with the dress code regulations may face penalties from the organizing committee.

6.3 Smoking is forbidden in the playing hall.

6.4 After each round, players must submit the original score sheets, signed by both players, to the arbiter.

6.5 Players who have finished their games shall be considered as spectators and are not allowed to stay in the playing area.

6.6 Players are instructed not to bring mobile phones or any other electronic devices, even if switched off, into the playing hall. Bringing any such device into the hall will result in the forfeiture of the game.

6.7 The Arbiter may require the players to allow his clothes, bags, or other items to be inspected in private. The Arbiter or a person authorized by the arbiter for inspection shall be of the same gender as the player. If a player refuses to cooperate with these obligations, the arbiter shall take measures in accordance with Article 12.9 of the laws of Chess.

6.8 Random checks of players may be carried out before and after every game.

6.9 Fair play measures will be taken according to the FIDE Anti-Cheating regulations.

6.10 The players shall take no action that will bring the game of chess into disrepute.

6.11 Players are obliged to obey the tournament regulations.

6.12 Photos may be only taken with flash during the first 10 minutes of the rounds. After that, only Media representatives holding an accreditation are allowed to film or photograph in the playing hall without flash.

6.13 Only players, Arbiters, Officials, and Organizers shall be allowed in the actual playing arena.

6.14 The weather in Kuwait in January is usually low and can range between 12°C and 19°C.

6.15 In Kuwait, power plugs and sockets (outlet) of Type C and Type G are used.



6.16 The Standard voltage is 240 V at Frequency of 50 Hz.

7. Procedure of Appeals:

In the event of a protest against a decision by the Chief Arbiter or any other arbiter, the protest must be submitted in written form to the Chairman of the Appeals Committee within one hour after the competition of the playing session, accompanied by a deposit of 100 US Dollars from the signatory.

If the protest is accepted and the decision changed, the deposit will be returned to the claimant. Otherwise, the money will be transferred to the Tournament Organizing Committee.

The Appeals Committee will be made up of five persons selected by the majority of players during the Technical Meeting prior to the first round.

8. Official Hotel & Venue

8.1 Residence Inn by Marriott Kuwait (4 stars)

Time taken from the hotel to the gaming hall: 2 minutes (walking distance)

Room Type	Price per day per room	Price per day per person
Single with 3 meals	34 KD	34 KD
Double with 3 meals	44 KD	22 KD

Hotel Services:

- 3 buffet meals (breakfast, lunch, and dinner) at the main restaurant.
- 4 pieces of laundry daily, non-accumulative.
- Airport transportation.
- Service fee included.
- Internet access.
- Access to the health club.

8.2 Millennium Central Downtown Hotel (4 stars)

Time taken from the hotel to the gaming hall: 3 minutes (walking)

Room Type	Price per day per room	Price per day per person
Single with breakfast only	28 KD	28 KD
Double with breakfast only	35 KD	17.5 KD
Single with 3 meals	35 KD	35 KD
Double with 3 meals	45 KD	22.5 KD



Hotel Services:

- Use of the fitness center, steam room, and wellness center.
- Free use of the indoor swimming pool.
- Fruit basket in every room.
- Free Wi-Fi throughout the hotel and rooms.
- Central air conditioning/heating with individual control keys.
- TV, hair dryer, bathroom scale, iron with table and safe.
- 110, 220, and 240 Volt electrical outlets for shaving.
- Complimentary tea and coffee service is provided in the rooms in the private corner.

9. Important Note for VISA:

All Title holders and Foreign Players are requested to send their queries regarding VISA assistance to the below contacts:

10. Contacts

Website : www.kmsa-kw.com

Email: kuwaitchessfed@kmsa-kw.com

Contacts:

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