

4-9 December 2026, Portimão

INVITATION

EUROPEAN RAPID AND BLITZ CHESS CHAMPIONSHIP



ORGANIZERS & PARTNERS





I. Invitation

As the first major event of its 100th anniversary celebrations, the Portuguese Chess Federation is honored to invite all National European Chess Federations affiliated to FIDE and ECU, and all eligible players, to participate in the European Rapid, Blitz, and Fischer Random (Chess960) Chess Championships 2026.

The Championships will be held in **Portimão Arena**, 8500-726 Portimão, Portugal, from **4 December** (arrival) to **9 December** (departure) 2026.

II. Participation

The European Rapid, Blitz, and Fischer Random (Chess960) Chess Championships 2026 are open to all players from National Chess Federations which are members of the European Chess Union (ECU), FIDE zones 1.1. to 1.10, without rating or title limitations, and according to the decisions of ECU Board and General Assembly.

There is no limit of number of participants per federation.

By registering, each player confirms that they will participate in the ERBCC 2026 and have acquainted themselves with the applicable ECU Tournament Rules and Regulations, FIDE Code of Ethics and ECU & FIDE Anti-Cheating regulations. Guidelines and conditions of participation are described in the ECU General Regulations of the Championship and Portuguese anti-doping regulations.

III. Registration and fees

The registration will be made exclusively through the official form, which must be sent to europcu@fpx.pt. Both national federations or individual players can sign up with the form. The deadline for registration is **5 November 2026**.

Registration by email or any channel besides the official form will not be accepted, with the exception of players currently affiliated in the Portuguese federation.

In case of a late registration, an extra fee in the amount of 20,00 EUR will be charged.

The Organizers reserve the right to verify the data provided in the registration form by unrated players.



Fees

The entry fee for all tournaments (Rapid + Blitz + Fischer Random) is **100,00 EUR**, which includes a 40,00 EUR fee to the European Chess Union.

- Entry fee for Rapid Tournament: 45,00 EUR (20,00 EUR ECU fee is included).
- Entry fee for Blitz Tournament: 35,00 EUR (10,00 EUR ECU fee is included).
- Entry fee for Fischer Random (Chess960) Rapid Tournament: 35,00 EUR (10,00 EUR ECU fee is included).

Players rated over 2600 and women rated over 2400 on the 1 November rating list in Rapid and Blitz are exempt from paying the entry fee for the respective Championship. For the Fischer Random tournament, standard rating will be taken as reference for the exemption.

Players will only be allowed to play in the first round if all amounts (fees + accommodation + transfers) have been paid.

The list of registered players who have paid their amounts in full will be regularly updated on the tournament website.

Entry fees will not be refunded once paid.

Bank details are at the end of the document.

All entry fees must be paid before the registration deadline, i.e., 5 November 2026.

IV. Tournament system

The European Individual Rapid Chess Championship will be played according to the Swiss system, in 11 rounds, with the time control 15 minutes + 10 seconds increment per move, starting from move 1.

The European Individual Blitz Chess Championship will be played according to the Swiss system, in 13 rounds, with the time control 3 minutes + 2 seconds increment per move, starting from move 1.

The European Individual Fischer Random (Chess960) Chess Championship will be played according to the Swiss system, in 9 rounds, with the time control 10 minutes + 5 seconds per move, starting from move 1.



V. Prize fund

The total prize fund is 40.000,00 EUR.

- Prize fund for the Rapid Chess Championship: 20.000,00 EUR.
- Prize fund for the Blitz Chess Championship: 12.500,00 EUR.
- Prize fund for the Fischer Random (Chess960) Chess Championship: 7.500,00 EUR.

A player can win only one money prize (main or special prize), the highest one available. In the event that multiple players finish with the same number of points, money prizes shall be shared according to the Hort system, among such numbers of players which corresponds to the number of advertised prizes in each championship. The special prizes will not be shared and will be awarded according to the tie-break criteria. The Portuguese Chess Federation will transfer the Prize fund to the ECU bank account. Prizes over 200 euros will be sent to the winners by bank transfers. The others will be paid at the Championships.

Main Prizes

Main Prizes			
	RAPID	BLITZ	FISCHER RANDOM
1st:	5.000,00 EUR	2.500,00 EUR	1.500,00 EUR
2nd:	3.000,00 EUR	1.500,00 EUR	1.000,00 EUR
3rd:	2.000,00 EUR	1.000,00 EUR	750,00 EUR
4th:	1.000,00 EUR	750,00 EUR	500,00 EUR
5th:	750,00 EUR	600,00 EUR	400,00 EUR
6th:	750,00 EUR	500,00 EUR	350,00 EUR
7th:	500,00 EUR	500,00 EUR	300,00 EUR
8th:	500,00 EUR	400,00 EUR	250,00 EUR
9th:	500,00 EUR	400,00 EUR	200,00 EUR
10th:	500,00 EUR	300,00 EUR	200,00 EUR
11th:	400,00 EUR	300,00 EUR	100,00 EUR
12th:	400,00 EUR	300,00 EUR	100,00 EUR
13th:	400,00 EUR	300,00 EUR	100,00 EUR
14th:	300,00 EUR	200,00 EUR	100,00 EUR
15th:	300,00 EUR	200,00 EUR	100,00 EUR



Special category prizes

Special Prizes - Categories				
		RAPID	BLITZ	FISCHER RANDOM
Best Player under 2300 Elo	1st:	300,00 EUR	250,00 EUR	150,00 EUR
	2nd:	200,00 EUR	150,00 EUR	100,00 EUR
	3rd:	100,00 EUR	75,00 EUR	50,00 EUR
Best Player under 2000 Elo	1st:	300,00 EUR	250,00 EUR	150,00 EUR
	2nd:	200,00 EUR	150,00 EUR	100,00 EUR
	3rd:	100,00 EUR	75,00 EUR	50,00 EUR
Best Player under 1700 Elo	1st:	300,00 EUR	250,00 EUR	150,00 EUR
	2nd:	200,00 EUR	150,00 EUR	100,00 EUR
	3rd:	100,00 EUR	75,00 EUR	50,00 EUR
Best Female Player	1st:	500,00 EUR	350,00 EUR	150,00 EUR
	2nd:	400,00 EUR	250,00 EUR	100,00 EUR
	3rd:	300,00 EUR	150,00 EUR	50,00 EUR
Best Algarve Player (resident)		100,00 EUR	75,00 EUR	50,00 EUR
Best Player born 2006-2009		100,00 EUR	75,00 EUR	50,00 EUR
Best Player born 2010-2013		100,00 EUR	75,00 EUR	50,00 EUR
Best Player born 2014 or later		100,00 EUR	75,00 EUR	50,00 EUR
Best POR Player		200,00 EUR	200,00 EUR	100,00 EUR
Best POR Female Player		100,00 EUR	75,00 EUR	50,00 EUR



VI. Schedule

Friday, 4th December	All day	Arrival
Saturday, 5th December	11:30	Technical meeting
	14:00	Opening ceremony
	14:30	Rapid Tournament 1st - 5th round
	20:30	Traditional Fish dinner
Sunday, 6th December	10:00	Rapid Tournament 6th - 7th round
	12:00	Lunch break
	14:00	Rapid Tournament 8th - 11th round
	18:30	Closing Ceremony - Rapid Tournament
Monday, 7th December	10:00	Blitz Tournament 1st - 5th round
	12:30	Lunch break
	14:30	Blitz Tournament 6th - 13th round
	20:00	Closing Ceremony - Blitz Tournament
Tuesday, 8th December	10:00	Fischer Random (Chess960) 1st - 4th round
	12:45	Lunch break 2 hour
	15:00	Fischer Random (Chess960) 5th - 9th round
	18:30	Closing ceremony Fischer Random Tournament
Wednesday, 9th December	All day	Departure

VII. Arbiters and appeals

Chief, Deputy Arbiters and Appeals Committee will be appointed by European Chess Union. Protests against decisions of the Chief Arbiter must be submitted in written form to the Chairman of the appeals committee not later than 1 hour after the end of the respective game. The protest must be accompanied by the sum of 200 EUR as a deposit from this signatory. If the appeal is granted, the sum will be returned immediately. If the appeal is refused, the deposit is forfeited to the ECU. The appeal must be lodged by the player. Decisions of the Appeals Committee are final.



VIII. Accommodation

Free transfers between the official lodgings and the playing venue will be offered for free, at the start of the first round and at the end of the final round of each day.

There are currently the following accommodation options available, with further hotels being announced soon.

Youth Hostel	price/night	5 nights
Twin room	45,00 EUR	225,00 EUR
4-bed room	25,00 EUR	125,00 EUR

Note: Price per person. Twin rooms come with a private bathroom. 4-bed rooms have access to the common hostel bathrooms. Breakfast is included for both options.

RR Club Amarilis ***	price/night	5 nights
Twin apartment	45,00 EUR	225,00 EUR
Triple apartment	40,00 EUR	200,00 EUR
Quadruple apartment	37,00 EUR	185,00 EUR
5-person apartment with 2 rooms and living room	37,00 EUR	185,00 EUR
6-person apartment with 2 rooms and living room	37,00 EUR	185,00 EUR

Note: Price per person. All options are half-board (breakfast and dinner). 5 and 6-person apartments include 2 rooms and a living room. Apartments must be fully occupied.

Turim Presidente Hotel ****	price/night	5 nights
Single room	85,00 EUR	425,00 EUR
Twin room	75,00 EUR	375,00 EUR
Triple room	55,00 EUR	275,00 EUR

Note: Price per person. All options are half-board (breakfast and dinner).

All accommodation costs must be paid before the registration deadline, i.e., 5 November 2026.



IX. Transfers

The Organization will provide transfers from Faro airport to the official hotels on 4th December, and from the official hotels to the Faro airport on 9th December. The price is 20,00 EUR each way.

There will be a special transport service from the Seville airport and Seville train station to Portimão on the 4th December (departure from Seville at 19:00 Spanish time), and back on the 9th December (departure from Portimão at 7:00 Portuguese time). The price is 30,00 EUR each way.

Several companies provide bus and train routes from Lisbon to Portimão:

- Train tickets can be purchased from www.cp.pt.
- Bus tickets can be purchased from www.rede-expressos.pt and www.flixbus.pt.

The Portimão train and bus stations are located next to the playing hall. Transfers between the stations and the official hotels can be arranged by request free of charge.

Transfers on other days or other destinations may be arranged on request to europcu@fpx.pt.

All transfer costs must be paid before the registration deadline, i.e., 5 November 2026.

X. Visa information

Teams or players needing visas are requested to contact the Organizing Committee at europcu@fpx.pt before **1 November 2026** and apply on time to the respective Portuguese embassy. The Organizing Committee will provide invitation upon confirmation of booking at one of the official hotels and respective payment. The Organizing Committee has no responsibility for late or incomplete applications.



XI. Additional information

Emergency medical assistance will be available during the Championships. Nevertheless, players are advised to insure themselves against health risks and accidents for the period of the championship, especially non-EU citizens.

A bar with food and beverages, as well as a fan zone, will operate at the playing location during the Championships.

XII. Payments

All fees, accommodation, and transfer costs shall reach the below bank account no later than 5 November 2026.

Please transfer the entire value indicated in your **registration form** in one transaction and send the proof of transfer to europcu@fpx.pt.

- Bank: Banco Montepio
- Account currency: EUR
- Holder: FEDERACAO PORTUGUESA XADREZ
- BIC: MPIOPTPL
- IBAN: PT50 0036 0052 9910 0041 4755 1

All transaction costs and foreign bank commissions must be paid by the sender.

Players or federations who wish to receive an invoice are kindly requested to fill in the "Invoice" page on the registration form.

XIII. Contact information

The technical organizer is the Portuguese Chess Federation, under the auspices of the European Chess Union.

Tournament Director: IO Dominic Cross

Contact email: europcu@fpx.pt

Website: <https://erbcc2026.com/>

WhatsApp contact: +351931467291