

9TH EUROPEAN INDIVIDUAL CHESS CHAMPIONSHIPS

INVITATION

1. ORGANIZERS

Bulgarian Chess Federation under the auspices of the European Chess Union.

Bulgarian Chess Federation

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2. VENUE, DATE, SCHEDULE

The Championships will be held in Plovdiv, Bulgaria from April 20 (day of arrival) until May 4 (day of departure) 2008. The tournament hall is Paris in Novotel Plovdiv.

Sunday	20.04		Arrival of participants
Sunday	20.04	at 19.00	Opening ceremony
Sunday	20.04	at 22.00	Technical Meeting
Monday	21.04	at 14.30	1 st round
Tuesday	22.04	at 14.30	2 nd round
Wednesday	23.04	at 14.30	3 rd round
Thursday	24.04	at 14.30	4 th round
Friday	25.04	at 14.30	5 th round
Saturday	26.04	at 14.30	6 th round
Sunday	27.04	at 14.30	7 th round
Monday	28.04	rest day	rest day
Tuesday	29.04	at 14.30	8 th round
Wednesday	30.05	at 14.30	9 th round
Thursday	01.05	at 14.30	10 th round
Friday	02.05	at 14.30	11 th round
Friday	02.05	at 22.00	Technical meeting for tie-breaks
Saturday	03.05	at 10.00	Tie-breaks
Saturday	03.05	at 19.00	Closing Ceremony
Sunday	04.05		Departures

The Chief Arbiter after consultations with ECU and the Organizers may make changes to the above tournament schedule. Such changes will be announced in due time.

3. SYSTEM AND RATE OF PLAY

The championship will be 11 rounds, played in the Swiss system in accordance with the ECU Tournament Rules and FIDE Laws of Chess. The playing time will be 90 minutes for 40 moves plus 30 minutes for the rest of the game with an increment of 30 seconds per move, starting from move one.

4. TIE-BREAK SYSTEM

The order of players that finish with the same number of points shall be determined by application of the following tie-breaking procedures in sequence, proceeding from (a) to (b) to (c) to (d) to the extent required:

- a) Median-Buchholz 1, the highest number wins;
- b) Buchholz, the highest number wins;
- c) Number of wins, the highest number wins;
- d) Progressive Score, the highest number wins.

In the case of unplayed games for the calculation of (a) and (b) the current FIDE tournament rules shall be applied: "Independently of the result of an unplayed game (win by Bye, win or loss by forfeit, no game because the player has withdrawn or was absent for some round(s)) for reasons of tie-break the result shall be counted as a Draw against the player himself."

Annex to FIDE Tournament Rules, pt.1.

Tie-break Matches

Tie-break matches are limited to the following cases:

- a) to establish the Champion;
- b) to establish the medal winners;
- c) to establish qualifiers, for the World Chess Championship.

In the case of a) and b) the relevant tie-break matches will decide the final ranking and the money prizes connected with these places.

In the case of c), the relevant tie-break matches will not influence the final ranking and the money prizes will be shared equally.

5. PARTICIPATION

The European Championship is open to all players representing the Chess Federations which comprise the European Chess Union (FIDE zones 1.1 to 1.9) regardless of their title or rating. There is also no limit of participants per federation; however **applications have to be sent by the national federations only.**

6. QUALIFIERS

The Individual Men's European Championship 2008 and the Individual European Women's Championship 2008 are qualification events for the next World Cup or the next World Championship for Women respectively. According to FIDE regulations and the decision of the ECU Board, 22 players from the men's section and 13 players from the women's section will qualify.

7. CHIEF ARBITER

Chief Arbiter will be IA Zdravko Nedev, Bulgaria.

8. PRIZES

The prize fund is **140 000 EUR**

Men: 100 000 EUR

Women: 40 000 EUR

Main Prizes

Rank	Men: 92 200 EUR	Women: 34 500 EUR
1	15 000	6 000
2	10 000	5 000
3	8 000	4 000
4	6 500	3 000
5	5 500	2 000
6	5 000	1 900
7	4 500	1 800
8	4 000	1 700
9	3 500	1 600
10	3 200	1 500
11	3 000	1 400
12	2 800	1 300
13	2 500	1 200
14	2 200	1 100
15	2 000	1 000
16	1 900	
17	1 800	
18	1 700	
19	1 600	
20	1 500	
21	1 400	
22	1 300	
23	1 200	
24	1 100	
25	1 000	

Special prizes (Performance minus Rating)

Rank	Men: 7 800 EUR	Women: 5 500 EUR
1	1 000	1 000
2	900	900
3	800	800
4	700	700
5	650	600
6	600	500
7	550	400
8	500	300
9	450	200
10	400	100
11	300	
12	280	
13	250	
14	220	
15	200	

According to Bulgarian law all prizes are taxable.

No double prize award will be carried out. If a prize-winner is absent during the closing ceremony, then the money prize will be reduced by 20% with a minimum of 100 EUR. The first 3 places will be awarded cups and medals.

9. APPLICATIONS, REGISTRATION

The National federations are kindly requested to fill in and return the Application Form **not later than March 15th 2008**. All players and accompanying persons who want to stay in one of the hotels offered by the organizers will get an invoice. Bank transfer costs have to be covered by the person ordering, but **not later than March 15th 2008**.

Account for Accommodation, Transfers, and registration fees:

BANK: First Investment Bank

BIC: FINVBGSF

IBAN: BG05FINV915010EUR01EGA

BANK ADDRESS: 1000 - Sofia, 10 Stefan Karadzha St.

ACCOUNT HOLDER: Bulgarian Chess Federation

The National federations are kindly requested to fill in and return the enclosed Application Form to the organizers as soon as possible but **not later than March 15th 2008**. Any application after this date will be charged 100 EUR penalty by organizers for each individual application.

10. FEES

The organization fee is 50 EUR per player.

Participants that will not accept any of the suggested by the organizers hotels and prefer to take care for the accommodation and food on their own have to pay 25 EUR additional fee.

11. ACCOMMODATION

The organizers offer accommodation in the following hotels:

Novotel Plovdiv – 5 stars

Double room – 49 EUR

Single room – 65 EUR

Hotel Maritza – 4 stars

Double room – 43 EUR

Single room – 55 EUR

Best Western Hotel Royal – 3 stars

Double room – 37 EUR

Single room – 48 EUR

12. TRANSFER

The Organizers offer a round trip bus transfer (Sofia Airport – Novotel Plovdiv – Sofia Airport, app. 2 x 150 km) for 60 EUR per person.

13. PAYMENT FOR ACCOMMODATION AND TRANSFER

All players and accompanying persons who want to stay in one of the hotels offered by the organizers will get an invoice. Bank transfer costs have to be covered by the person ordering.

14. VISAS

If entry visas are required, please contact the Bulgarian embassy in your country. If you need visa, please send us the registration form by the deadline mentioned above. The Organizing Committee will send an invitation letter as soon as possible. In the case of late registration the organizers are not responsible for the participant's visas.

15. CURRENCY & EXCHANGE

The local currency is the Bulgarian Lev.

1 EUR = 1.95 BGN. The best way to exchange your money is to do it in exchange offices or banks.

16. ELECTRICITY

The standard voltage in Bulgaria is 220 Volts.