

III TARTU CHESS FESTIVAL | REGULATIONS

1. PURPOSE

- a) Chess popularisation
- b) Promoting chess among children and youth in Tartu
- c) Showcasing Tartu
- d) Commemoration of Toomas Virro
- e) Determining the best players of Tartu Chess Festival

2. TIME AND PLACE

The festival will take place on 18-19 April 2026 in the Tartu [Comb Factory](#) event centre's production building (Teguri 28a, 50107, Tartu). The following events will be organised as part of the Tartu Chess Festival:

- 18.04: NIKE international U14 youth tournament
- 18.04: III Estiko international blitz tournament
- 18.-19.04: ALEXELA Cup | III Toomas Virro memorial in rapid chess



3. SCHEDULE

18 April

9.30-10.15	Registration, attendance check of pre-registered participants
10.25	Festival opening ceremony
10.30	Nike youth tournament Estiko blitz
~14.30	Awards ceremony
16.00	Alexela Cup rounds I-V

19 April

10.30	Alexela Cup rounds VI-XI
~14.00	Awards ceremony, closing of the festival

NB! The schedule may slightly change during the festival. Awards ceremonies will take place around 15 minutes after the end of the tournaments.

The tournament hall will have an on-site café during the festival, as in 2025.

4. REGISTRATION

The player is registered for the tournament once the participation fee has been paid to the bank account of the organiser. Deadline for pre-registration is 15 April 23:59.

- Beneficiary: Treeningpartner Pühajärve Maleklubi
- Bank account number: EE662200221078283489
- Explanation: participant's first and last name, birth year, name(s) of tournament(s)

Participation fees:

NIKE youth tournament (born 2012 or later): 10 EUR

III Estiko Blitz: 20 EUR

- IM/WIM; youth players (born 2008 or later); senior players (born 1961 or earlier); Tartu and Tartumaa players: 10 EUR
- GM/WGM: free

Alexela Cup | III Toomas Virro memorial in rapid chess: 35 EUR

- IM/WIM; youth players (born 2008 or later); senior players (born 1961 or earlier); Tartu and Tartumaa players: 20 EUR
- GM/WGM: free

5. TOURNAMENT SYSTEM AND TIE-BREAK REGULATIONS

The festival will be organised according to the FIDE Laws of Chess. All tournaments will be held in the Swiss system and will go into the calculation of FIDE ratings.

Nike youth tournament:

- 7 rounds
- The tournament will be played as a single event, with the best players determined in the overall standings as well as separately in the U8 (born 2018 or later), U10 (born 2016 or later), U12 (born 2014 or later), and U14 (born 2012 or later) age groups.
- Time control: 8 minutes per player + 3 extra seconds for each move

III Estiko Blitz:

- 11 rounds
- Time control: 3 minutes per player + 2 extra seconds for each move

Alexela Cup | III Toomas Virro memorial in rapid chess:

- 11 rounds
- Time control: 12 minutes per player + 3 extra seconds for each move

In case of equal points between two or more chess players, the tie-break will be as follows:

- a) results of direct encounters between the tied players
- b) reduced Buchholz-1 (sum of opponents' points excluding the weakest result)
- c) reduced Buchholz-2 (sum of opponents' points excluding the 2 weakest results)
- d) Buchholz (sum of opponents' points)
- e) highest number of games played with black

All disputes will be resolved by the chief arbiter of the tournament.

6. PRIZES

- **Nike youth tournament**

Overall prizes:

1. place – Nike sneakers + trophy
2. place – Nike prize
3. place – Nike prize

The best players will also be determined separately in each age group (U8, U10, U12, U14); the top three players and the best girl in each age group will receive a Nike souvenir, and all participants who register by 15 April will receive a commemorative diploma.

- **III Estiko Blitz**

1. place	400 EUR + trophy
2. place	250 EUR
3. place	150 EUR
4. place	100 EUR
Best Estonian player	75 EUR
Best female player	75 EUR
Best non-GM/IM	75 EUR
Best Tartu/Tartumaa player	50 EUR
Best youth player (born 2008 or later)	50 EUR
Best senior player (born 1961 or earlier)	50 EUR
Best senior player (born 1951 or earlier)	souvenir
Best Tartu/Tartumaa youth player (born 2008 or later)	souvenir
Best Tartu/Tartumaa senior player (born 1961 or earlier)	souvenir
Best player with FIDE ELO ≤ 2000	50 EUR
Best player with FIDE ELO ≤ 1700	souvenir
Best player with FIDE ELO ≤ 1400	souvenir

- **Alexela Cup | III Toomas Virro memorial in rapid chess**

1. place	1000 EUR + trophy
2. place	700 EUR
3. place	500 EUR
4. place	350 EUR
5. place	300 EUR
6. place	250 EUR
7. place	200 EUR
8. place	150 EUR
Best Estonian player	
1. place	125 EUR
2. place	75 EUR
3. place	50 EUR
Best female player	
1. place	125 EUR
2. place	75 EUR
3. place	50 EUR

Best youth player (born 2008 or later)	
1. place	125 EUR
2. place	75 EUR
3. place	50 EUR
Best senior player (born 1961 or earlier)	
1. place	125 EUR
2. place	75 EUR
3. place	50 EUR
Best IM	150 EUR
Best non-GM/IM	
1. place	125 EUR
2. place	75 EUR
3. place	50 EUR
Best Tartu/Tartumaa player	
1. place	125 EUR
2. place	75 EUR
3. place	50 EUR
Best Tartu/Tartumaa senior player (born 1961 or earlier)	souvenir
Best Tartu/Tartumaa youth player (born 2008 or later)	souvenir
Best player with FIDE ELO ≤ 2000	75 EUR
Best player with FIDE ELO ≤ 1700	souvenir
Best player with FIDE ELO ≤ 1400	souvenir
Best youth player (born 2012 or later)	souvenir
Best youth player (born 2016 or later)	souvenir
Best senior player (born 1951 or earlier)	souvenir

In addition, many lottery and surprise prizes! A player may receive multiple prizes. The tournament organiser will pay taxes on the prize money. The prize fund may increase.

7. ORGANISATION

The Tartu Chess Festival is organised by Treeningpartner/Pühajärve Chess Club in cooperation with Alexela, Estiko, Tartu Comb Factory, Dorpat Hotel, Sportland, Swedbank, Tartu Kalev, Estonian Chess Federation, Cultural Endowment of Estonia and other sponsors.

- Chief Arbiter – Andres Karba (andres.karba@gmail.com)
- Arbiter – Leho Lehes
- Chief organiser – Urmas Randma (+372 5158656; urmas.randma@hotmail.com)

Tournament's Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/tartumalefestival>

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