

VII COOP SAAREMAA CHESS FESTIVAL I REGULATIONS



PURPOSE

To popularise the game of chess in Saaremaa and elsewhere.
To introduce Saaremaa and Kuressaare as a great vacation places
Determine the best blitz and rapid chess players of the festival.

1. TIME AND PLACE

VI Coop Saaremaa Chess Festival will take place on 22.05-24.05.2026 in Asa Spa Hotel Kuressaare, Estonia (Pargi 12, 93810).

2. SCHEDULE

International blitz tournament

| | | |
|--------|-------------|--|
| 22 May | 15.00-15.30 | Registration attendance check of pre-registered participants |
| | 16.00 | Festival opening ceremony |
| | 16.20 | I-XI round |
| | 20.00 | Awards ceremony |

International rapid tournament

| | | |
|--------|-------------|---|
| 23 May | 10.00-10.45 | Rapid registration attendance check of pre-registered participants |
| | 11.00 | I-IV round |
| | 16.00 | V-VII round |
| | 20.30 | Festive reception in ASA hotel (free for the participants of the rapid) |
| 24 May | 10.30 | VIII-XI round |
| | 14.30 | Closing ceremony |

NB! The schedule may slightly change during the festival.

3. REGISTRATION

Pre-registration period would be until **18 May 2026**. Each interested player is required to pay full registration fee in order to participate. Registered players will be published in the Estonian Chess Federation [calendar plan](#).

A player who is not registered before the deadline will be allowed to play based on vacancy. Registration fees for players who register after 18 May 2026 will be doubled.

Bank details: (for payments in EUR):

- Beneficiary's Account (SWEDBANK): EE662200221078283489
- Beneficiary: Treeningpartner/Pühajärve maleklubi
- Details: Saaremaa Chess Festival, rapid and/or blitz, participant's full name and birth year

4. PARTICIPATION FEE

Blitz tournament: 25 EUR

- IM/WIM, youth (b. 2008 or later), seniors (b. 1961 or earlier), Saaremaa residents: 15 EUR

Rapid tournament: 50 EUR

- IM/WIM, youth (b. 2008 or later), seniors (b. 1961 or earlier), Saaremaa residents: 30 EUR

Both tournaments are **free** for GM / WGM titled players.

5. TOURNAMENT SYSTEM AND TIE-BREAK REGULATIONS

The **blitz** tournament will be played in the Swiss system for 11 rounds. The time control is 3 minutes + 2 seconds per move starting move 1. A player can be late for the round up to 3 minutes.

The **rapid** tournament will be played in the Swiss system for 11 rounds. The time control is 12 minutes + 3 seconds per move starting move 1. A player can be late for the round up to 5 minutes.

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
- f) greater number of victories

The tournaments will be played according to FIDE Laws of Chess. All disputes will be resolved by the chief arbiter.

6. PRIZES

Blitz tournament

| | |
|---|------------------|
| 1 st place | 400 EUR + trophy |
| 2 nd place | 250 EUR |
| 3 rd place | 200 EUR |
| 4 th place | 150 EUR |
| 5 th place | 100 EUR |
| best female player | 100 EUR |
| best Estonian player | 100 EUR |
| best non-GM/IM | 100 EUR |
| best senior player (b. 1966 or earlier) | 50 EUR |
| best youth player (b. 2008 or later) | 50 EUR |
| best player with FIDE ELO under 2000 | souvenir |
| best player with FIDE ELO under 1700 | souvenir |
| best Saaremaa player | souvenir |
| best unrated player | souvenir |
| best youth player (b. 2012 or later) | souvenir |

Rapid tournament

| | |
|-----------------------|-------------------|
| 1 st place | 1500 EUR + trophy |
| 2 nd place | 1000 EUR |

| | |
|---|----------|
| 3 rd place | 700 EUR |
| 4 th place | 500 EUR |
| 5 th place | 350 EUR |
| 6 th place | 300 EUR |
| 7 th place | 250 EUR |
| 8 th place | 200 EUR |
| 9 th -10 th place | 150 EUR |
| best female player | 125 EUR |
| female players 2 nd place | 75 EUR |
| female players 3 rd place | 50 EUR |
| best Estonian player | 125 EUR |
| Estonian players 2 nd place | 75 EUR |
| Estonian players 3 rd place | 50 EUR |
| best non-GM/IM | 125 EUR |
| non GM/IM 2 nd place | 75 EUR |
| non GM/IM 3 rd place | 50 EUR |
| best senior player (b. 1956 or earlier) | 75 EUR |
| best senior player (b. 1966 or earlier) | 75 EUR |
| best youth player (b. 2008 or later) | 75 EUR |
| best player with FIDE ELO under 2000 | 75 EUR |
| best player with FIDE ELO under 1700 | 75 EUR |
| best unrated player | 50 EUR |
| best Saaremaa player | souvenir |
| Best youth player (b. 2016 or later) | souvenir |
| best youth player (b. 2012 or later) | souvenir |

Additional lottery prizes and each player will receive a gift bag from COOP!

One player may receive multiple prizes. The prize money is transferred to the player's bank account right after the end of the tournament. The tournament organiser pays state taxes and the prizes shown above are reflected as a net amount. The prize fund may increase.

7. FESTIVAL ORGANIZATION

The festival is organised by Treeningpartner/Pühajärve Chess Club and Coop Saaremaa together with the Culture and Sports Department of Saaremaa Municipality, Estonian Chess Federation, and sponsors.

Chief arbiter – FA Markus Hansson

LIVE – Kristjan Saard

Communication / social media – Markus Hansson (mhanss@taltech.ee)

Chief organiser – Urmas Randma (+372 5158656; urmas.randma@hotmail.com)

Tournament Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/saaremaamalefestival>

GENS UNA SUMUS

Welcome to Saaremaa!