



INVITATION AND REGULATION

This is the official invitation to all National Chess Federations of the European Chess Union (ECU) and eligible players to participate in the European School Championships 2023, categories for boys/open and girls under 7, 9, 11, 13, 15 and 17 years old.

The championship will be held in the 5-star Blue FAFA Resort Durres, on the Adriatic coast of Albania, from 12 May (arrivals) to 22nd May (departures), organized by Albania Chess Federation (ACHF), under the auspices of European Chess Union (ECU)



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1. Participation and Registration

1.1 Entitled to participate are chess players from ECU Chess Federations, according to their age category:

- » Tournaments Under 07 (Open & Girls), player's date of birth: 1 January 2016 and after
- » Tournaments Under 09 (Open & Girls), player's date of birth: 1 January 2014 and after
- » Tournaments Under 11 (Open & Girls), player's date of birth: 1 January 2012 and after
- » Tournaments Under 13 (Open & Girls), player's date of birth: 1 January 2010 and after
- » Tournaments Under 15 (Open & Girls), player's date of birth: 1 January 2008 and after
- » Tournaments Under 17 (Open & Girls), player's date of birth: 1 January 2006 and after

- 1.2 Each ECU member federation can register an unlimited number of players that meet the age requirements of each of the 12 respective sections.
- 1.3 The Champions (1st place) in the previous European School Championships will have the personal right, as invited players, to participate in the tournament of the corresponding age-category or a higher age-category if they fulfil the conditions of the ECU Rules Art. G.1.1.
- 1.4. Players with FIDE ID registered in the Bulgarian Chess Federation can send the application of participation only individually.
- 1.5 The complete registration of each delegation should be sent by the National Federation, or have its approval, and must include the surname/s, first name/s, FIDE ID number, FIDE rating, dates of arrival/departure and passport number (for visa only purpose) of each player, each accompanying person and each delegation member where applicable.
- 1.6 It must also include clearly the name, telephone and e-mail of the Chief of Delegation who must be an adult. Registrations and bookings for the European School Chess Championships 2023 are possible only through the appointed local Organizer and only by email: info@escc2023.com
- 1.7 All players, accompanying persons and delegation members have to register through their national federations before **the deadline of 31 March 2023**, together with the payment of the entry fee and 30% deposit of the accommodation described below in article 4.2
- 1.8 After the deadline, a late registration fee of 50 euros per participant may be required.



2. Playing Venue- Official Hotels

- 2.1 The games will take place in the Grand Blue FAFA Conference Hall 2-3 min walking distance from the Hotel.
- 2.2 Official Hotels: Grand Blue FAFA - an excellent resort on the crystal-clear waters of the Adriatic Sea /5-star (*****), 40 km southwest of Tirana airport.

<https://www.fafa.al/grand-blue-fafa>

3. Accommodation and prices

- 3.1 According to the ECU Rules (Article B.14.5.1), for youth tournaments the participants are accommodated by the Organizer in the official hotel. Access to playing areas and venues will be allowed only to persons accredited by the Organizer.
- 3.2 For players with personal rights, the board and lodging costs from the official day of arrival to the breakfast of the day of departure shall be covered by the Organizer.
- 3.3 Accommodation per person: Breakfast, lunch and dinner (full board) daily.

Price in triple room	Price in double room	Price in single room
53 Euro per person	59 Euro per person	89 Euro per person

The deadline for the registrations is **31st March 2023**

4. Payments

- 4.1 Organisation fee: 100 Euro. Organisation fee will include:
- » Transportation from and to Tirana Airport
 - » Registration & Accreditation
 - » ECU fees
 - » All taxes (including VAT, Municipality Tax and Tourism Tax).
- 4.2 A deposit of 30% for the accommodation must be send to the organizer's bank account
- 4.3 Direct bank payments shall be done to the Albanian Chess Federation Bank Account

Holder: Federata Shqiptare e Shahut
Bank: Raiffeisen
Reference: ESCC 2023

Account No: 0021050488
Iban: AL0820211006000000021050488
Swift Code/ BIC: SGSBALTX



5. Special discounts/conditions for “small nations”

All players from the “Small Nations” will have:

- » 50% discount to registration fee
- » 50% discount of the transfer fee to the Hotel (both ways)
- » 20% discount for the Head of delegation

6. Travel Details

Travel connections (reachable by air and land travel). Mother Theresa” Tirana International Airport (TIA) is 45 minutes (40 km) from the official hotel. Organisers will provide Transfer Tirana- Airport and return for all participants on the arrival day (12th May 2023) and the departure day (22nd May 2023). Transportation from the organizers in other dates are possible upon request with an extra charge.

7. Rules

The ECU Tournament Rules should be followed for any other matter not mentioned in this invitation. National ratings will not be taken into consideration for pairings. Default time is 15 minutes.

There shall be 6 categories: Under 07, Under 09, Under 11, Under 13, Under 15 and Under 17 with separate events for Boys/Open and Girls (in total 12 championships).

8. Schedule

Day	Date	Hours	Activity
Friday	12 May		Arrivals
Friday	12 May	21:00	Technical meeting
Saturday	13 May	14:30	Opening Ceremony
Saturday	13 May	15:00	1 st round
Sunday	14 May	15:00	2 nd round
Monday	15 May	15:00	3 ^d round
Tuesday	16 May	15:00	4 th round
Wednesday	17 May	15:00	5 th round
Thursday	18 May	15:00	6 th round
Friday	19 May	15:00	7 th round
Saturday	20 May	15:00	8 th round
Sunday	21 May	11:00	9 th round
Sunday	21 May	18:00	Closing Ceremony / Departure if requested
Monday	22 May		Departure



9. Titles and Prizes

- 9.1 Award of Trophies and Gold, Silver and Bronze medals will be awarded to the players taking the first three places in each age category.
- 9.2 Special prizes will be awarded to the players taking the first six places in each age category.
- 9.3 Award of Trophies and medals to the best 3 teams-federations of the Championship. For the team standings, the best 6 individual results (points) per federation in all categories will be calculated.
- 9.4 The 1st winner of each European School Championship category shall have the personal right to participate as an invited player in the World School Championship of the corresponding or of a higher age category if the relevant stipulation of the FIDE Tournament Regulation is met. This privilege may be exercised exclusively in the subsequent year following the qualification.
- 9.5 All players will receive Certificates of Participation.

10. Scoring and Tie-Breaking System

- 10.1. The Championship will be played according to the Swiss System in 9 rounds, with time control 1h 30 min + 30 sec increment for the whole the game. If, in any age group, there are 11 to 15 participants only 7 rounds will be played. If in any age group there are 10 or fewer participants a round robin tournament will be played.
- 10.2 The score in each game is 1 for a win, $\frac{1}{2}$ for a draw and 0 for a lost game.
- 10.3 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 (e) the extent required:
 - (a) Results of direct encounters between the tied players (If all the tied players have met each other, the sum of points from these encounters is used. The player with the highest score is ranked number 1 and so on. If some but not all have played each other, the player with a score that could not be equaled by any other player (if all such games had been played) is ranked number 1 and so on.)
 - (b) Buchholz Cut 1,
 - (c) Buchholz,
 - (d) The greater number of games played with black,
 - (e) The Greater number of wins.



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11. Anti-Cheating Guidelines

The FIDE and ECU Anti-Cheating rules are valid for all the European Championships. (Article Q of the ECU Tournament Rules). Upon arrival or any time during the event, captains or players may be requested to present passports for verification of a player's age eligibility.

12. Appeals procedure

Appeals Procedure Protests against decisions of the Chief Arbiter must be submitted in written form to the Chairman of the appeals committee within 30 minutes after the completion of the respective game. The protest must be accompanied with the sum of 200 euros, as a deposit from the signatory. If the appeal is granted, the sum shall be returned immediately. If the appeal is refused, the deposit is forfeited to the European Chess Union. The appeal has to be lodged by the player. The decisions of the Appeals Committee are final.

13. Visa information

Any federation members, players and accompanying persons who need a visa to enter Albania, are requested to contact the Organizer before **31 March 2023**. The organizer will provide invitations for visas only after the necessary payments are wired. For more information about the visa's regime, please refer to the link below:
<https://punetejashtme.gov.al/en/regjimi-i-vizave-per-te-huajt/>

14. Covid-19 and Health Protocol

The official information regarding travel regulations to Albania, are published at: <https://punetejashtme.gov.al/informacion-mpi-levizjen-e-shtetasve-te-huaj-ne-shqiperi/>
The organizers and the participants should follow the official ECU Health Protocols. The organizers and the participants should also comply with all the health and testing regulations applied by Albanian Public Authorities.

Tournament office / Contact Information

Tournament Director and Organizer:

IO Majlinda Pilinci

Website: www.escc2023.com

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