CHRISTMAS TOURNAMENT

SANDANSKI - 12.12.2026

GOALS AND OBJECTIVES:
The main goal of the tournament is to improve the competitive skills and mastery of the participants, to stimulate interest in chess among young people, and to promote chess as a sport.

ORGANIZER:
The festival is organized by the Municipality of Sandanski under the patronage of the Mayor, Mr. Atanas Stoyanov and Chess Club “Davidov”.

SYSTEM AND RATE OF PLAY:

The tournament will be played according to the Swiss system in **7 rounds**.

Rate of play: 10 min. for the whole game, plus 5 sec. increment from move one. A computer and specialized Swiss Manager software are used to pairings.

The event is conducted in accordance with the rules of FIDE and will be valid for FIDE rating.

VENUE AND DATES:

The tournament will take place on 12.12.2026, in the sports hall of Sandanski, located near the new bus station. The exact GPS coordinates are 41.55265, 23.27262.



SCHEDULE: 12.12.2026

09.00 – 09.45 – Registration

09.50 – Technical Meeting

10.00 – Round 1

11.00 – Round 2

11.50 – Round 3

12.20 – Round 4

13.00 – 14.00 – Lunch break

14.10 – Round 5

14.45 – Round 6

15.20 – Round 7

16.30 – Closing ceremony and award distribution

PARTICIPANTS:

Each participant must have a FIDE ID to provide in their entry request.

The maximum number of participants is limited to 100 players. Registrations will be accepted on a first-come, first-served basis. Registration will close upon filling all available places.

Registration for participation ends at 18:00 on December 10th, 2026. New participants are not allowed on the day of the tournament.

ENTRY FEE:

Children under 16: 15 €

Seniors 65+: 15 €

Others: 25 €

GM - free

STANDINGS:

Where a place in a group is tied between two or more players, the following tie-breaks will be used for ranking purposes:

1. Buchholz Median
2. Buchholz
3. Number of Wins
4. Direct Encounter
5. Sonneborn-Berger Tie-Break Variable

TOTAL PRIZE FUND: 2 310 €

MAIN PRIZES: 1 200 €
1.) 300 €
2.) 250 €
3.) 150 €
4.) 100 €
5.) 90 €
6.) 80 €
7.) 70 €
8.) 60 €
9.) 50 €
10.) 50 €

SPECIAL PRIZES: 1 110 €

Women
1.) 50 €
2.) 30 €

Senior's 65+
1.) 50 €
2.) 30 €
3.) 20 €

Local Players
1.) 60 €
2.) 50 €
3.) 40 €
4.) 30 €
5.) 20 €

Players with rating under 2000
1.) 100 €
2.) 90 €
3.) 80 €
4.) 70 €
5.) 60 €
6.) 50 €
7.) 40 €
8.) 30 €

Boys or girls under 12 years old
1.) 40 € + cup
2.) 30 € + cup

Boys or girls under 14 years old
1.) 40 € + cup
2.) 30 € + cup

Boys or girls under 16 years old
1.) 40 € + cup
2.) 30 € + cup

The prizes cannot be shared and are attributed to the winners, according to the final ranking. In case one player deserves more than one prize, he/she will only be rewarded with the higher valued one. In case of equal prizes, the one for the overall ranking is awarded

The age for special prizes is determined as of 01.01.2026.

ARBITERS:

The tournament is led by Chief Arbiter Georgi Bednikov IA (FIDE ID 2912031).

Decisions made by the chief arbiter are final.

DISCIPLINE:

After completing their game, players must arrange the pieces and leave the playing area. The player who wins their game announces the result at the arbiter's table. In case of a draw, the player with the white pieces performs the procedure. During the game, players are forbidden to carry electronic communication devices or devices capable of suggesting chess moves in the playing area. Mobile phones must be completely turned off. It is forbidden to distract or annoy the opponent in any way. This includes unfounded claims, unjustified draw offers, or introducing a source of noise into the playing area. The arbiter has the right to require players to allow inspection of their clothing, bags, hats, or other items in a designated space or room. The arbiter, or an assistant authorized by them, who checks a player, must be of the same gender as the person being checked. If a player refuses to comply with these obligations, they lose the game and are disqualified from the tournament, and their opponent wins. All players are required to adhere to FIDE rules and the current regulations and to play their games in the spirit of “fair play”. The application for participation confirms that the players are familiar with the current regulations and are obliged to adhere to them.

MEDICAL PROVISION:

The doctor for the tournament is Dr. Danailov.

CONTACT:

Georgi Bednikov
ste.vas@abv.bg
Tel/Viber: +359 896 631 643

ACCOMMODATION:

The organizers recommend the following hotels:

PAUTALIA - GPS:41.553892,23.275914
https://hotel-pautalia.com/
info@hotel-pautalia.com
tel: +359882411313

TIME OUT - GPS:41.566885,23.288003
https://hotel-timeout.com/
info@hoteltimeout.com
Tel:+359898734323

Konstantin and Elena GPS:41.563526,
23.278991
https://rezervaciq.com/kompleks-sv-sv-konstantin-i-elena-sandan
ngarcheva@abv.bg /
Tel:+359877733195