

Regulations for the Women's World Chess Championship Cycle

1. Organisation

1.1. The Women's World Chess Championship shall be organised annually and qualifying events include the following: National Championships, Zonal Tournaments, Continental Championships, FIDE Women's Grand Prix and the final stages, the Women's World Chess Championship Tournament in even years 2018, 2020 etc. (64-player knock out system) and the Women's World Chess Championship Match (10 games, 2 players) in odd years 2017, 2019, etc.

1.2. Governing Body: the World Chess Federation (FIDE). For the purpose of creating the rules and regulations, communicating with the players and negotiating with the organizer, the FIDE President has nominated the FIDE Commission for World Championships and Olympiads (hereinafter referred to as WCOC). Upon recommendation by the WCOC, the body responsible for any changes to the regulations of the World Championship Cycle events is the FIDE Presidential Board.

1.2.1. With the exception of National Championships, Zonal Tournaments and also Continental Championships that do not serve as a qualifying event for the World Chess Championship cycle, FIDE retains all commercial and media rights, including internet.

2. Qualifying events for the Women's World Chess Championship Tournament (knock out system)

2.1. National Chess Championships – National Chess Championships are the responsibility of the Federations who retain all rights in their events.

2.2. Zonal Tournaments – Zonals can be organised by the Continents according to their regulations that have to be approved by the FIDE Presidential Board.

2.3. Continental Chess Championships – The Continents, through their respective Boards and in co-operation with FIDE, shall organise Continental Championships. The regulations for these events have to be approved by the FIDE Presidential Board nine months before they start if they are to be part of the qualification system for the World Chess Championship cycle.

2.3.1. FIDE shall guarantee a minimum total prize fund of USD 15,000 for the Continental Championships divided among the Continents, as follows:

1. Americas	5,000 USD
2. Asia-Oceania	5,000 USD
3. Africa	5,000 USD

Total: 15,000 USD

To qualify for the grant of the prize money contributed by FIDE for each Continental Championship, each Continent must show proof of additional sponsorship money it has raised for the prize fund.

FIDE shall retain 20% of the prize fund. The Continent shall receive 20% from any additional prize fund at the Continental level.

2.3.2. Where a Continent decides to have zonal tournaments for qualification to the Women's World Championship, the number of zonal qualifiers shall be restricted to the approved figure by zone; the extra qualification places for each Continent shall be given to the Continental Championship to determine the remaining qualifiers to the Women's World Championship.

2.3.3. All the Zonal qualifiers, as well as the number of players eligible by country to participate in each zonal, can participate in their Continental Championship with their full board expenses covered by the host organiser. The extra players by country as determined by each Continent shall be responsible for their expenses. This applies only in those Continents that hold Zonals and Continental Championships.

2.3.4. The Continental and Zonal Championships shall be organized before the end of June of each year. The Continents, in co-operation with the WCOC, will decide on the format and the maximum number of participants per country including qualifiers per country. No double rounds are allowed in Continental Championships. If the Continental Championship cannot be organized by the Continents, then FIDE shall organise the Championship using the prize fund allocated to the respective Continent, without necessarily distributing prizes to the players.

2.3.5. The number of qualifiers for each continent is:

Europe: 28

Americas: 8

Asia: 12

Africa: 3

2.3.6. FIDE will send one of its representatives, a member of the WCOC or a representative appointed by the committee, as an observer to ensure that the event is held in line with the Women's World Championship regulations. He will present an independent report on the conduct of the Championship to the Presidential Board of FIDE. Traveling cost, board and lodge as well as stipend shall be paid by the organising committee of the Continental Championship.

3. Women's World Chess Championship 2018

3.1. Qualifiers – There are 64 qualifiers (in order of priority):

- a. The winner, the runner up and the two other semi-finalists of the Women's World Championship 2016 (4 players)
- b. The World Junior Girl Champions U-20 of 2016 & 2017. (2 players)
- c. The five best rated players from the average of the FIDE rating lists as described in 3.1.2 below (5 players).
- d. Fifty-one qualifiers from the Women's Continental Championships and Zones (51 players).
- e. Two nominees of the FIDE President (2 players).

3.1.1. Replacements – Women's World Champion, finalists and semi-finalists of the WWCC 2016, World Junior Girl U-20 Champions and rated players can be replaced only from the average rating list. Continental and Zonal qualifiers will be replaced from their respective events, except that in the Zonal Tournament the replacement must have scored at least 50% of the maximum possible score. Otherwise the place passes to the Continental Championship. The average rating list has priority if a player qualifies either from the rating list or a zonal/continental event.

In case a zonal/continental event is organized before the publishing of the January 2018 rating list, then the zonal/continental event has priority over the average rating list for qualifying or replacement purposes.

3.1.2. For the purpose of deciding the 5 rated players-qualifiers, as well as any replacements, the average from the following lists will be used: all published FIDE ratings in standard chess from February 2017 to January 2018 divided by twelve (12). In case of equality two decimals will be taken into consideration. If the numbers are still equal then the number of games within the two periods shall be decisive. That means the player with the greater number of games shall qualify. If the numbers are still equal, then the February 2018 list shall be decisive. If the Elo in this list is still the same, the player with the greater number of games in this list will qualify.

3.1.3. A player who has played less than thirty (30) FIDE rated standard games in the twelve months of 2017 will not be able to qualify as a rated player. Any rapid and blitz rated games are not calculated when applying this 30-game rule.

3.1.4. The list of qualified players and the reserves will be published on the FIDE web site.

3.2. Tournament format

3.2.1 There shall be five (5) rounds of matches, comprising two (2) games per round, with the winners progressing to the next round. The 6th (final) round shall be played over four (4) games and the winner will be declared Women's World Champion.

Round 1:	there shall be	64 players
Round 2:	there shall be	32 players
Round 3:	there shall be	16 players
Round 4:	there shall be	8 players
Round 5:	there shall be	4 players
Round 6:	there shall be	2 players

3. 2. 2. Schedule of the Women's World Championship

Opening Ceremony/Players` meeting		1 day
Round 1:	2 days play	2 days
	+ tiebreaks	1 day
Round 2:	2 days play	2 days
	+ tiebreaks	1 day
Round 3:	2 days play	2 days
	+ tiebreaks	1 day
Round 4:	2 days play	2 days
	+ tiebreaks	1 day
Round 5:	2 days play	2 days
	+ tiebreaks	1 day
Free Day	1 day free	1 day
Round 6:	4 days play	4 days
	+ tiebreaks	1 day
Closing Ceremony		1 day
TOTAL		23 days

3. 3. Confirmation of Participation/Conduct of Players

3. 3. 1. When FIDE has confirmed the name of organiser, venue and dates, the participants will be able to download the copy of the Player's Contract (which contains the player's obligations) from the FIDE web site and shall send their signed contract to FIDE within two weeks. This is the player's responsibility.

Any participant, specified in paragraph 3.1 who fails to return her player's contract by the official deadline, may be replaced according to article 3. 1. 1. The WCOC may accept late contracts received after the deadline within the period of 7 days. The final list shall then be published 10 days after the deadline on the FIDE web site. Players not previously qualified but who have the right to participate as replacements shall be notified through the FIDE web site and will have one further week to return their signed contracts to FIDE.

3. 3. 2. All players mentioned in 3. 3. 1 shall confirm, by fax and registered mail to the FIDE Secretariat, their participation by returning the signed original copy of the Players' Contract published on the FIDE web site for participation in the Women's World Championship. Players shall be fully responsible for the arrival on time to the FIDE Secretariat of their signed contract.

3. 3. 3. A player who returns her contract but withdraws before the pairings are announced will be replaced by a player as described in 3. 1. 1.

3. 3. 4. Any player that withdraws after the pairings are announced shall not be replaced.

3. 3. 5. Players that fail to provide a satisfactory reason for withdrawal, after they have signed the player's contract, may be excluded from the next World Championship cycle.

3. 3. 6. If the World Cup and the Women's World Championship are organised at the same period (even if the two events overlap by one day) then the player who has the right to participate in both championships shall decide per 3. 3. 2 in which tournament she will play.

3. 3. 7. For security and administrative reasons, all participants are expected to stay in the officially designated hotel(s).

3. 3. 8. All players shall pay their own cost of travel, accommodation and meals for the duration of their stay.

3. 4. Pairings.

3. 4. 1. All participants will start from Round 1.

3. 4. 2. For purposes of pairings the players shall be ranked according to the most recent rating list when pairings for the 1st round are announced. In case of equality of two or more players, the player with the greater number of games played during the period covered by the list shall be higher seeded. In case of equal number, the order will be decided by draw of lots. The Women's World Champion will be seeded number one.

3. 4. 3. Pairings shall follow the principle of top half vs. lower half reversed (1-64, 2-63...). Thus the highest ranked player of the top half shall play the lowest ranked player of the bottom half. The second ranked player of the top half shall play the penultimate ranked player of the bottom half. And so on.

3. 4. 4. For rounds 2 to 5, pairings shall follow the same procedure as in 3. 4. 3, with the clarification that if the lower ranked player wins in any match, she shall automatically assume the position of the higher ranked player.

3. 4. 5. All the participants will start from round 1. No postponement shall be allowed except with permission of the FIDE President.

3. 5. Drawing of colours

3. 5. 1. The draw for colours shall be conducted as follows:

a) The top seeded player in Round 1 receives White or Black in the first game as decided by lot during the Opening Ceremony. In the second game of the same round, colours will be reversed. In match 2, the higher seeded player shall have the opposite colour to the top seeded player, and so alternating through the list.

b) In Round 2 the winner of match 1 shall have in the first game the colour opposite to the colour that the top seeded player had in the first game of Round 1. The higher seeded player in the first game of match 2 shall have the same colour that the highest seeded player had in the first game of match 1 and thereafter with colours alternating through the list, with the clarification that if the lower ranked player wins in any match in the previous round, then she shall automatically assume the position of the higher ranked player.

c) For Rounds 3-6 the same procedure is applicable.

d) For the tie-break matches in article 3.8, there shall be a drawing of lots for each match. If these matches are also drawn, there shall be a drawing of lots to decide who shall receive White in the sudden-death game.

3.6. Time control.

3. 6. 1. The time control shall be 90 minutes for the first 40 moves followed by 30 minutes for the rest of the game with an increment of 30 seconds per move from move one.

3. 6. 2. The games shall be played using the electronic clocks and boards approved by FIDE.

3. 7. Conditions of victory

3. 7. 1. For rounds 1-5, each match shall be played over two (2) games and the winner of every match shall be the first player to score 1.5 or more points. The final match, or round 6, shall be played over four (4) games and the winner of the match shall be the first player to score 2.5 or more points. A tie shall be broken according to article 3.8. The winner of the final match will be declared Women's World Champion.

3. 8. Tie-breaks

3. 8. 1. Rounds 1-5

3. 8. 1. 1 If the scores are level after the regular games, after a new drawing of colours, two (2) tie break games shall be played. The games shall be played using the electronic clock starting with 25 minutes on the clock for each player with an addition of 10 seconds after each move.

3. 8. 1. 2 If the scores are level after the games in paragraph 3. 8. 1. 1, then, after a new drawing of colours, two (2) ten-minute games shall be played with the addition of 10 seconds after each move.

3.8.1.3 If the scores are level after the games in paragraph 3.8.1.2, then, after a new drawing of colours, two (2) five-minute games shall be played with the addition of 3 seconds after each move.

3.8.1.4. If the score is still level after the games in paragraph 3.8.1.3, the players shall play one sudden death game. The player who wins the drawing of lots may choose the color. The player with the white pieces shall receive 5 minutes, the player with the black pieces shall receive 4 minutes whereupon, after the 60th move, both players shall receive an increment of 3 seconds from move 61. The winner qualifies for the next round. In case of a draw the player with the black pieces qualifies for the next round.

3.8.2. Round 6 (Final Match)

3.8.2.1 If the scores are level after the regular games, after a new drawing of colours, two (2) tie break games shall be played. The games shall be played using the electronic clock starting with 25 minutes on the clock for each player with an addition of 10 seconds after each move.

3.8.2.2 If the scores are level after the games in paragraph 3.8.2.1, then, after a new drawing of colours, two (2) ten-minute games shall be played with the addition of 10 seconds after each move.

3.8.2.3 If the scores are level after the games in paragraph 3.8.2.2, then, after a new drawing of colours, two (2) five-minute games shall be played with the addition of 10 seconds after each move.

3.8.2.4. If the score is still level after the games in paragraph 3.8.2.3, the players shall play one sudden death game. The player who wins the drawing of lots may choose the color. The player with the white pieces shall receive 5 minutes, the player with the black pieces shall receive 4 minutes whereupon, after the 60th move, both players shall receive an increment of 3 seconds from move 61. The winner shall be declared Women's World Champion. In case of a draw the player with the black pieces shall be declared Women's World Champion.

3.8.3. Rules for tiebreak games

All tie-break games shall be played according to the Annex 2 of the World Championship Technical Regulations.

3.8.4. Between the tiebreak games as well as before the start of the sudden death game there shall be a pause of at least 10 minutes, unless the Chief Arbiter decides otherwise.

3.9. Prizes for the Women's World Championship

3.9.1. Prize list (minimum 450.000 USD in total)

1 st round	32 losers	x	3.750	=	120.000
2 nd round	16 losers	x	5.500	=	88.000
3 rd round	8 losers	x	8.000	=	64.000
4 th round	4 losers	x	12.000	=	48.000
5 th round	2 losers	x	20.000	=	40.000
6 th round	1 loser	x	30.000	=	30.000
Women's World Champion				=	60.000
TOTAL:					<u>450.000 USD</u>

3.9.2. A payment of 20% from the above prize fund shall be made to FIDE.

3.9.3. If a player withdraws due to ill health or any other good reason accepted by the Appeals Committee, she shall receive the full prize money to which he was entitled at that time.

3.9.4. If a player withdraws after the start of the first round without having a satisfactory reason for doing so, she shall receive no prize money.

3.10. Playing Conditions.

3.10.1. Only the players, principals and steward (-es) shall be allowed in the actual playing area except with the permission of the Chief Arbiter.

3. 10. 2. During the playing session the following additional regulations shall be in force:

- a) The players are not permitted to bring into the playing area technical and other equipment extraneous to play, which may in any way disturb or upset the opponent. The Chief Arbiter shall decide what constitutes extraneous equipment liable to offend the opponent.
- b) A player may talk only to an arbiter or communicate with a steward, or with his opponent as permitted by the Laws of Chess.
- c) During the playing session, players are not allowed to leave the playing area without the permission of the Chief Arbiter.

3. 11. Score sheets.

3. 11. 1. The Organisers shall provide score sheets according to the specifications provided by the WCOC.

- a) At the end of each game the players' original score sheets shall be given to the Arbiter, who shall hand them to FIDE .
- b) Refusal of either player to sign the score sheets shall be penalised according to Article 13.4 of the Laws of Chess. After the players have signed the score sheets, the Arbiter shall countersign to confirm the results.
- c) In tiebreak games, the players and the Arbiter shall sign a result sheet.

3. 12. Players' Meeting.

3. 12. 1. Players are required to attend the Players' Meeting on the day of the Opening Ceremony at a time to be decided by the Chief Arbiter and the Organisers. If necessary, the Chief Arbiter may call other Players' Meetings.

3. 12. 2. If a player fails to appear at the Players' Meeting or conducts himself in a manner contrary to the spirit of sportsmanship or the FIDE Code of Ethics, then the following penalty may be imposed by the Chief Arbiter: 5% of his prize money shall be forfeited to the Organisers and a further 5% to FIDE for each breach. In cases of serious misconduct the player may be disqualified from the tournament and the World Chess Championship cycle.

3. 13 Interviews, functions and mode of dressing.

3. 13. 1. The players are expected to co-operate reasonably with the media. General interviews with them can be arranged through the Press Officer.

3. 13. 2. The players are required to make themselves available for short interviews, of not more than 10 minutes duration, immediately after each game. This applies to the winner of each game, or both players in the event of a draw. The players are also required to be present at all official functions approved by the FIDE President or his Deputy during the Championship, including official receptions and the opening ceremony. The 2 finalists are also required to be present at the closing ceremony.

3. 13. 3. If a player fails to meet the requirements of 3.13.2, then the following penalty can be imposed by the Press Officer: 5% of his prize money shall be forfeited to the Organisers and a further 5% to FIDE for each breach. A player can appeal for such a penalty within 3 hours after the end of the game. In cases of serious misconduct, the player may be disqualified from the tournament and the World Chess Championship cycle.

3. 13. 4. Players are requested to note the requirements of FIDE Regulations C.01 (Article 8.1) in respect of their dignified appearance at all times during the event.

3. 14. Payment of Prize Money and Stipends

3. 14. 1. The prize fund shall be paid by bank cheque or direct banker's order drawn in United States Dollars to FIDE.

3. 14. 2. Upon completion of the Women's World Chess Championship, FIDE shall pay these sums collectible in the player's home country within 2 weeks.

3. 14. 3. Although FIDE will endeavour to sign an agreement with the organiser stating that the prize funds are net and free of all local tax, FIDE will not be responsible for any national or local tax deducted from the prize money. FIDE will give all necessary assistance to the players if the organiser acts to the contrary.

3.15. Principals

3.15.1. The Principals are:

- a) President and Deputy President;
- b) FIDE Treasurer and General Secretary; FIDE Observer;
- c) Three members of the Appeals Committee;
- d) Arbiters;
- e) FIDE Press Officer;
- f) Chairman of FIDE Medical Commission (or his/her nominee-member of the FIDE Medical Commission);
- g) Two WCOC members;

3.16. Arbiters

3.16.1. There will be a Chief Arbiter, a Deputy Chief Arbiter, three Deputy Arbiters and local assistance according to the tournament needs. FIDE President, in consultation with the World Chess Championship Committee, shall appoint the arbiters who must have the title of International Arbiter.

3.16.2. In each match, no arbiter may belong to the same federation as either of the players. Exception: if both players are members of the same federation, an arbiter may also belong to this federation.

3.16.3. During play either the Chief Arbiter or the Deputy Chief Arbiter must be present in the playing area.

3.16.4. Immediately after the end of the Women's World Chess Championship, the Chief Arbiter shall write a report and send it without delay to the FIDE Secretariat.

3.16.5. The report shall be written in the English language.

3.16.6. The report shall contain the result of each individual game as well as the final result of each match. In addition, the report shall contain a general description of the course of the event. If there were any difficulties, conflicts or incidents during the tournament, they shall be described together with the measures taken to deal with them.

3.16.7. The report shall be supplemented by adding two copies of the bulletins of the event and the score sheets of the games.

3.16.8. The Chief Arbiter may, in consultation with the WCOC, and with the approval of the FIDE President, issue additional written regulations to inform the exact playing hours and take care of other details not covered by these regulations.

3.17. Appeals Committee.

3.17.1. There shall be a Chairman and two other members, all from different Federations and by priority FIDE PB members, appointed by the FIDE President in consultation with the World Championship & Olympiads Committee. No member of the Appeals Committee shall sit in judgement in a dispute involving a player or party from his Federation except where the dispute is between two players or two parties from his Federation.

All protests must be submitted in writing to the Appeals Committee not more than two hours after the relevant playing session, or the particular infringement complained against. The Committee may decide on the following matters:

- a) an appeal against a decision by an arbiter,
- b) a protest against a player's behaviour,
- c) a complaint alleging false interpretation of the regulations,
- d) a request for the interpretation of specific regulations,
- e) a protest or complaint against any participant, or
- f) all other matters which the Committee considers important.

If possible, the Committee shall reach a decision not more than two hours after the submission of a protest. The appeals process shall include written representations and a written decision. The Committee shall endeavour to find binding solutions that are within the true spirit of the FIDE motto, Gens Una Sumus. Each protest must be accompanied by a deposit fee of USD 500 (five hundred US Dollars) or the equivalent in local currency. If the protest is accepted, the fee shall be returned. If the protest is rejected, the fee may be forfeited to FIDE.

The written decision of the Appeals Committee arising from any dispute in respect of these regulations shall be final.

3. 18. Arrangements for the Playing Hall

3. 18. 1. The WCOC shall ensure the playing hall and its environs meet at least the requirements of the FIDE Regulations for the Organisation of Top Level Tournaments (FIDE Handbook C.01).

3. 18. 2. The playing venue shall be decorated with the FIDE flag, IOC flag, the flags of the host nation and the participating Federations.

3. 18. 3. After the World Chess Championship Committee agrees with the Organisers on the arrangements in respect of the tournament hall, facilities, accommodation and meals, transportation, telecommunication, ceremonies, no objections from the participants shall be acceptable.

3. 18. 4. Organisers shall provide, free of charge, coffee, tea and soft drinks for the players and principals. It is advisable that the same offer shall apply for press members.

3. 19. Photography and Television

3. 19. 1. Only photographers and camera crew expressly authorised by the Press Officer may work in the playing venue.

a) When more than 16 players are competing, flash may be used only during the first ten minutes.

b) When 16 players or less are competing, flash may only be used during the first five minutes.

c) In tiebreak games flash may only be used in the first three minutes. In case of 5 minutes + sudden death games, the use of flash is not permitted, the use of cameras without flash may only be permitted if the Arbiter in charge deems their use to be unobtrusive.

e) Television cameras must be unobtrusive and may only be used if the Arbiter in charge deems their use to be unobtrusive.

f) An official photographer, designated by the Organisers with the approval of the Chief Arbiter shall be allowed to take photos at any time during the round without flash.

3. 20. Ceremonies.

3. 20. 1. The Opening Ceremony shall take place the day prior to the first round and all participants are required to take part. Exception can be made by a written permission of the FIDE President.

3. 20. 2. The program of the Opening Ceremony shall be supervised by FIDE. Cultural program and speeches totalling up to 60 minutes are usually welcome. FIDE Anthem and the Anthem of the hosting country shall be played.

3. 20. 3. The drawing of colours for round 1 shall be carried out during the opening ceremony.

3. 20. 4. The Closing Ceremony shall take place not later than one day after the end of the event. The Organisers shall provide a trophy and a gold medal for the Women's World Champion. Silver and bronze medals shall be provided for the runner-up and 3rd – 4th winners. If the two semi-finalists, who were eliminated in round 5, stay in the hosting city after their elimination in order to attend the closing ceremony, FIDE will cover their hotel expenses for this extra period. The FIDE Anthem, the Anthem of the World Champion's country and the Anthem of the hosting country shall be played during the Closing Ceremony.

3. 21. FIDE Rights and Obligations of the Organisers

3. 21. 1. Finance

3. 21. 1. 1. Before the end of the tournament, FIDE shall be reimbursed for its direct expenses incurred in the Women's World Championship. This shall be a fixed sum agreed between the Organiser and the World Chess Championship Committee before the start of the tournament. This sum shall include stipends, pre-expenses (inspections) and tournament expenses (travelling and boarding) for the principals. The WCOC shall advise and help the Organisers on protocol, budget, infrastructure, media, commentary, bulletin and other technical problems.

3. 21. 1. 2. FIDE has exclusive commercial rights to the event and is free to exploit them commercially, including entering into advertisement agreements either with the Organisers or Sponsors of the tournament requiring players to wear clothes with the branding of sponsors.

3. 21. 1. 3. The income provided by the Women's World Chess Championship through admission charges, concessions and photography shall go to the Organiser. The radio and television rights, including video and film rights, shall belong to FIDE. The right as described here and in the previous paragraph can be given by FIDE to the organiser.

3. 21. 1. 4. FIDE shall have the exclusive rights for live games transmission on Internet and shall provide the necessary equipment such as electronic boards and clocks to cover the event. FIDE shall provide to the Organisers the signal for online game display in the different function rooms as agreed between the parties. These rights as described here can be given by FIDE to the organiser.

3. 21. 1. 5. The Organiser shall draw up a budget as detailed as possible, including provision for contingencies. This shall be subject to the approval of WCOC and the FIDE President.

3. 21. 1. 6. The Organiser, in cooperation with the FIDE Press Officer and approval of the FIDE Journalist Commission, shall invite accredited FIDE journalists and has to provide a total of 15 (fifteen) free hotel nights with full board for them, as per chapter C.09 “Media Regulations“ of the FIDE handbook.

3. 21. 2. Stipends

3. 21. 2. 1. The following stipends are to be paid to the Principals of the Women’s World Chess Championship:

a) Chairman of the Appeals Committee	USD	7,000
b) Two members of the Appeals Committee	USD	6,000
c) Chief Arbiter	USD	4,000
d) Deputy Chief Arbiter	USD	2,500
e) Deputy Arbiter (Rounds 1 to 5)	USD	2,000
f) 2 Deputy Arbiters (Rounds 1 to 4)	USD	3,500
g) FIDE Press Officer	USD	2,500
h) Chairman of FIDE medical Commission	USD	3,000

In addition the organisers shall pay to FIDE a minimum sum of USD 35,000 for the WCOC budget.

3. 21. 3. Travelling and Accommodation

3. 21. 3. 1. Travel. The FIDE President has the right to first class travel by air, sea or rail, at the Organisers` expense. The FIDE Deputy President has the right to business class travel by air, sea or rail, at the Organisers expense. All other Principals shall be provided with transport by air, sea or rail or, if they prefer, any other mode of transport that is not more costly to the Organisers than air travel. Any Principal making his own travel arrangements without the agreement of the Organisers does so entirely at his own risk.

3. 21. 3. 2. Board and Lodging. For the FIDE President a suite in a first class hotel and for the Deputy President one junior suite in the same first class hotel. For each Principal or WCOC member - a double room in the same first class hotel. Also, hospitality shall be provided for three more FIDE people (FIDE Secretariat). Extras will be covered by the Organisers only for the FIDE President.

3. 21. 3. 3. Food and drinks. Provision for food and drinks shall be provided for all the Principals. This shall be provided by a specified allowance in local currency per day or by the provision of all meals in the restaurant of the hotel. The nature and amount shall be agreed between the Organisers and WCOC.

3. 21. 3. 4. Local transportation. Transfer from and to the airport will be provided by the organisers, if necessary. For FIDE President, a chauffeur-driven car. For the other Principals, a number of cars shall be made available; their use will depend on the position of the hotels, playing hall and media centre, and on the leisure activities of the Principals. Alternatively, a daily allowance in local currency may be provided, the amount to be agreed between the Organisers and WCOC. Local transport shall also be provided for players to official functions if necessary.

3. 21. 3. 5. Personnel – The Organisers should provide sufficient personnel to assist: the FIDE Secretariat, in the playing hall, press room, VIP room, and at ceremonies according to the agreement made with the WCOC.

3. 22. Selection of the Organisers.

3. 22. 1. Any federation that is a member of FIDE or any sponsor may bid for the right to administer the Women’s World Championship. FIDE shall consult the federation where the sponsor proposes to hold the event. If the federation refuses or is unable to co-operate, FIDE may still accept a proposal from a potential sponsor.

No proposed sponsor for the Women's World Championship shall be in conflict with the regulations of the International Olympic Committee.

3. 22. 2. FIDE organizes bidding procedures for candidate organizers/sponsors and announces publicly the terms, conditions and deadline for submission of offers.

3. 22. 3. Each applicant shall pay a non-refundable fee of USD 1 000 to obtain the obligatory bidding form and the necessary information from the FIDE Secretariat.

At any time, where the bidding procedure fails, the Presidential Board shall decide, where, when and how the Women's World Championship shall be organised.

3. 22. 4. In the event that FIDE receives a satisfactory open offer that covers all the minimum financial requirements, then FIDE may immediately terminate any bidding procedure already opened.

3. 22. 5. Each proposal shall contain the following particulars:

- a) the proposed dates of the event
- b) the proposed tournament venue;
- c) the proposed prize fund in U.S. Dollars.
- d) the covering of all organisational costs
- e) Special rates for hotel rooms and meals for the participants, accompanying persons and journalists.
- f) A statement that the applicant accepts all the demands made in these regulations;
- g) The applicant's name, signatures and authentication;
- h) Two bank guarantees shall be provided. One for the proposed prize fund comprising 20% of this sum and the other for the sum of USD 50,000 in respect of other obligations.

3. 22. 6. FIDE may exercise the right to reject any bid application if the conditions as stated in 3. 22. 8 below are not met or the financial offer is unsatisfactory.

3. 22. 7. Each proposal shall be accompanied by an invitation to at least one member of the WCOC to inspect the proposed venue and examine the other conditions, with all expenses paid by the bidder.

3. 22. 8. The FIDE Presidential Board shall decide which applicant shall be chosen. The decision reached shall be based on the following criteria, which are to be viewed as a whole:

- a) prize fund
- b) covering of organisational costs
- c) playing conditions
- d) providing visas to all players, trainers and officials.
- e) Security assistance for all players and officials.
- f) chess activity both actual and potential in the country hosting the Women's World Championship.
- g) media possibilities
- h) potential development of chess worldwide.
- i) climatic conditions during the period of the tournament
- j) taxation conditions in the hosting country in respect of the prize fund.

If a Presidential Board meeting cannot be held, the FIDE President takes the decision in consultations with the WCOC.

3. 22. 9. After the Presidential Board (or the FIDE President) has decided who shall be selected to organize the Women's World Championship, the Organizers shall deposit, no later than six months before the start of the event, in escrow, net and free of all taxes, with the FIDE bankers the full sums of money covering the prize fund and all costs related to FIDE as stipends, travel, full board and lodge and other administrative costs for communications etc in accordance with a budget agreed between FIDE and the Organizers.

3. 22. 10. In case of a failure to deposit the sums of money under 3. 22. 9, the guarantees specified in 3. 22. 5 are forfeited in favour of FIDE.

3. 22. 11. At any time, after the sums specified under 3. 22. 9, have been deposited in escrow, if the Organizer fails to organize the Women's World Championship or is in breach of the agreement with FIDE for the organization of the event, FIDE shall withdraw the right to organize the event and at the same time, the Organizers shall forfeit 50% of the sums under 3. 22. 9.

3. 22. 12. The Organizers shall invite two members of the WCOC to inspect and give consultation on the preparations. The WCOC shall decide on the need for further inspections. Travelling (business class if transcontinental) and accommodation costs are to be borne by the Organizers.

3. 23. Other

3. 23. 1. At any time in the course of the application of these regulations, any grounds that are not covered or any unforeseen event shall be referred to the Presidential Board or the President of FIDE, for final decision.

4. Women's World Chess Championship 2019

4. 1. The winner of the FIDE Women's Grand Prix series 2017-2018 will play the Women's World Champion in the second half of 2019 in a ten game match for the Women's World Championship title. Should the overall winner of the Women's Grand Prix also be the Women's World Champion at the end of the Grand Prix series in 2018, then the challenger rights will go to the second placed overall in the Grand Prix.

4. 2. Full technical regulations and the bidding procedure for the Women's World Championship Match 2019 will be announced by FIDE in the first half of 2018.

ANNEX 1

**WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP TECHNICAL REGULATIONS
(FIDE Laws of Chess)**

The FIDE Laws of Chess constitute Annex 1 of the present regulations
and are published on the FIDE website:

www.fide.com/component/handbook/?id=208&view=article