



1. Organizers and Venue:

Sofia Cup 2026 is organized by Chess club "Maritza-Iztok", Radnevo, Bulgaria.
The venue is Grand Hotel Sofia, 1 Gen. Gurko, Sofia, Bulgaria.

2. Event Description:

There will be two separate tournaments as follows:

SOFIA CUP 2026 – Balkan Rapid Championship and

SOFIA CUP 2026 – Balkan Blitz Championship

Both tournaments will be FIDE rated for the respective time control.

SOFIA CUP 2026 – Balkan Rapid Championship will be played in 9 rounds with time control of 10 minutes + 5 seconds increment.

SOFIA CUP 2026 – Balkan Blitz Championship will be played in 11 rounds with time control of 3 minutes + 2 seconds increment.

Organizer will provide chess equipment for all participants.

3. Participation Rights:

The tournaments are open to all interested chess players with a FIDE rating of 2000 or higher in any time control (Standard, Rapid, or Blitz). The Organizer reserves the right to accept a limited number of players who do not meet this rating requirement. The maximum capacity of the playing hall is 160 players, and registrations will be accepted on a first-come, first-served basis.

The registration deadline is Thursday, August 27th at 20:00.

4. The Schedule:

Saturday, August 29 th	
10:50	Opening Ceremony
11:00 – 14:30	SOFIA CUP 2026 – Balkan Rapid Championship Rounds I - V
14:30 – 15:30	Break
15:30 – 18:15	SOFIA CUP 2026 – Balkan Rapid Championship Rounds VI - IX
Sunday, August 30 th	
11:00 – 13:00	SOFIA CUP 2026 – Balkan Blitz Championship Rounds I - VI
13:00 – 13:30	Break
13:30 – 15:00	SOFIA CUP 2026 – Balkan Blitz Championship Rounds VII – XI
15:30	Closing and Awarding Ceremony

5. Registration and Entry Fees:

GM, IM, WGM and WIM title holders are exempt from the entry fee.

Other players should pay entry fees as follows:

SOFIA CUP 2026 – Balkan Rapid Championship 35 EUR

SOFIA CUP 2026 – Balkan Blitz Championship 25 EUR

Both tournaments 50 EUR

Entry fees must be paid to the following bank account before the registration deadline:

Beneficiary: Chess Club "Maritza-Iztok", Radnevo, Bulgaria

IBAN: BG34UNCR76301076930100

Bank: UniCredit Bulbank AD

SWIFT/BIC: UNCRBGSF

6. Prize Fund:

The total prize fund for SOFIA CUP 2026 is **60.000 EUR** and is guaranteed regardless of the number of participants.

SOFIA CUP 2026 – Balkan Rapid Championship 36.000 EUR					
1 st place	5.000 €	6 th place	1.200 €	11 th place	600 €
2 nd place	3.500 €	7 th place	1.000 €	12 th place	500 €
3 rd place	2.500 €	8 th place	900 €	13 th place	400 €
4 th place	1.800 €	9 th place	800 €	14 th place	350 €
5 th place	1.400 €	10 th place	700 €	15 th place	350 €
Special prizes for Women:					
1 st place	2.500 €	3 rd place	750 €	5 th place	250 €
2 nd place	1.500 €	4 th place	500 €		
Special prizes for Seniors (50+):					
1 st place	1.000 €	2 nd place	500 €	3 rd place	250 €
Special prizes for Juniors (U20):					
1 st place	1.000 €	2 nd place	500 €	3 rd place	250 €
Balkan prizes*					
1 st place	1.200 €	2 nd place	800 €	3 rd place	500 €
1 st Woman	700 €	2 nd Woman	500 €	3 rd Woman	300 €
1 st Senior	500 €	2 nd Senior	300 €	3 rd Senior	200 €
1 st Junior	500 €	2 nd Junior	300 €	3 rd Junior	200 €

SOFIA CUP 2026 – Balkan Blitz Championship 24.000 EUR					
1 st place	3.000 €	6 th place	600 €	11 th place	250 €
2 nd place	2.000 €	7 th place	500 €	12 th place	200 €
3 rd place	1.200 €	8 th place	400 €	13 th place	200 €
4 th place	900 €	9 th place	350 €	14 th place	200 €
5 th place	700 €	10 th place	300 €	15 th place	200 €
Special prizes for Women:					
1 st place	2.500 €	3 rd place	750 €	5 th place	250 €
2 nd place	1.500 €	4 th place	500 €		
Special prizes for Seniors (50+):					
1 st place	1.000 €	2 nd place	500 €	3 rd place	250 €
Special prizes for Juniors (U20):					
1 st place	1.000 €	2 nd place	500 €	3 rd place	250 €
Balkan prizes*					
1 st place	700 €	2 nd place	500 €	3 rd place	300 €
1 st Woman	500 €	2 nd Woman	300 €	3 rd Woman	200 €
1 st Senior	350 €	2 nd Senior	250 €	3 rd Senior	150 €
1 st Junior	350 €	2 nd Junior	250 €	3 rd Junior	150 €

Regular prizes will be distributed according to the Hort System, up to and including 15th place. All special prizes and Balkan prizes will be awarded strictly according to the final standings.

Special prizes are **not cumulative** with regular prizes.

Balkan prizes are **cumulative** with other prizes.

All money prizes will be paid in full amount to the bank accounts of the winners. Prize winners are solely responsible for declaring their prize money and paying any taxes or other charges that may be applicable in their country of residence or tax jurisdiction.

*Only players representing the following federations are eligible for the **Balkan prizes**: BUL, TUR, ROU, GRE, SRB, MNE, MKD, BIH, ALB, KOS and SLO.

7. Accommodation and Invitations:

Participants are free to arrange their own accommodation.

The Organizer recommends the Grand Hotel Sofia <https://www.grandhotels Sofia.bg/>

All federations eligible for the Balkan prizes are entitled to nominate one player who will be granted invited-player status, including free accommodation at Grand Hotel Sofia from August 28th to 30th.

Invited players must either be members of their national Open or Women's team at the 2026 Chess Olympiad in Uzbekistan or have a minimum FIDE rating of 2550 (2300 for women) in any time control (Standard, Rapid, or Blitz)..

For more details, federation officials should contact organizer.

8. Information:

For all further information about SOFIA CUP 2026 and for registration, please contact the organizer using the following e-mail address: sofiachesscup@gmail.com.

The official website is: <https://sofiachesscup.com/>.