



Maia International Chess Festival

2026

Regulations

August 20th to 29th, 2026 | Maia, Portugal

Organization: Academia de Xadrez da Maia



Contents

Introduction	3
1 Maia Chess Open	5
2 Douro Blitz Cruise	12
3 Queens Maia Blitz	16
4 Maia Rapid Cup	21



Introduction

August 20th to 29th, 2026 | Maia, Portugal

Ten days dedicated to Chess in the city of Maia, bringing together players from all over the world in a program that combines high-level competition, thematic events and socializing. From the Maia Chess Open to the Douro Blitz Cruise, through the Queens Maia Blitz and the Masterclasses, the Festival offers something for all Chess lovers.

Events

The Festival is organized by Academia de Xadrez da Maia, with the support of the Maia City Council, and consists of the following events:

- Douro Blitz Cruise (August 20th);
- **Maia Chess Open - Masters**, a 9-round tournament aimed at facilitating Chess Master norm opportunities (August 21st to 29th);
- **Maia Chess Open - U2000**, a 9-round tournament (August 21st to 29th);
- Queens Maia Blitz (August 23rd);
- Masterclasses (August 24th, 26th, 27th and 28th);
- Streamers Maia Blitz (August 25th);
- Maia Rapid Cup (August 25th);
- Night Chess Party (August 25th);
- Chess Congress (to be announced).

All games are played under FIDE rules. The regulations, structure or format may be subject to changes based on circumstances and number of players. No significant changes are planned from August 1st, 2026.

Wild Card – Access to All Festival Tournaments

A single registration giving access to all Festival tournaments, including the Maia Chess Open, Douro Blitz Cruise, Queens Maia Blitz and Maia Rapid Cup.

Until April 15 th , 2026	Until July 31 st , 2026	Until August 18 th , 2026
100.00€	120.00€	130.00€



Calendar

Event	Date
Douro Blitz Cruise	August 20 th
Maia Chess Open - Masters	August 21 st to 29 th
Maia Chess Open - U2000	August 21 st to 29 th
Queens Maia Blitz	August 23 rd
Masterclasses	August 24 th to 28 th
Summer Chess Camp	August 24 th to 28 th
Streamers Maia Blitz	August 25 th
Maia Rapid Cup	August 25 th
Night Chess Party	August 25 th
VIII Congress – “Chess in School”	To be announced

Contacts

More information can be obtained by contacting via email maiachessfestival@axm.pt, visiting www.axm.pt or via WhatsApp:

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Maia Chess Open

Masters / U2000

August 21st to 29th, 2026 | TECMAIA



Location

Address TECMAIA Parque: R. Eng. Frederico Ulrich 2650, 4470-605 Maia
 GPS 41.259249, -8.642422
 Metro Line C (Mandim stop)
 Map <https://maps.app.goo.gl/YKNXiJ2681BzBWUx8>



Schedule

Date and Time	Event
August 21 st , 16:00	Reception, Accreditation and Opening Ceremony
August 21 st , 19:00	Round 1
August 22 nd , 16:00	Round 2
August 23 rd , 16:00	Round 3
August 24 th , 16:00	Round 4
August 25 th , 10:00	Round 5
August 26 th , 16:00	Round 6
August 27 th , 16:00	Round 7
August 28 th , 16:00	Round 8
August 29 th , 10:00	Round 9
August 29 th , 16:00	Prize Ceremony

Participants

- **Maia Chess Open - Masters:** Requirement of FIDE Elo equal to or greater than 2000, determined by the FIDE Standard Elo from the August 2026 list.
- **Maia Chess Open - U2000:** Requirement of FIDE Elo less than 2000, determined by the FIDE Standard Elo from the August 2026 list.

The organization reserves the right of admission to the tournaments.

Registration

Maia Chess Open - Masters Registration (Elo equal to or greater than 2000)

Until April 15 th (inclusive)	Until July 31 st (inclusive)	Until August 18 th (inclusive)
60.00€	70.00€	80.00€

Players with GM, IM, WGM and WIM titles are exempt from the registration fee.

The organization may make exceptions for players with Elo below 2000 to participate in the Maia Chess Open - Masters tournament. In such cases, an additional fee on top of the registration fee is required, subject to approval by the organization:

- 150€ for players with Elo between 1800 and 1899;
- 100€ for players with Elo between 1900 and 1999;



Maia Chess Open - U2000 Registration

Until April 15 th (inclusive)	Until July 31 st (inclusive)	Until August 18 th (inclusive)
60.00€	70.00€	80.00€

Registration must be done by filling out the form on the tournament website <https://axm.pt/registrations/>. Information via email maiachessfestival@axm.pt. Registration is only valid after payment of the registration fee to Academia de Xadrez da Maia via IBAN PT50 0010 0000 5839 7720 0015 0 or via Wise transfer to IBAN BE05 9676 0506 7875.



Proof of payment must be submitted on the website, in the dedicated area. The payment date determines the deadline and, consequently, the registration value.

System

Swiss system of 9 rounds. The organization may opt for accelerated pairings in the first 2 or 3 rounds, applying the accelerated pairing method (according to article C.04.7.1, effective from February 1st, 2026), depending on the number of participants. Each player will have 90 minutes for the first 40 moves, with an addition of 30 minutes after move 40 and an increment of 30 seconds per move from the first move. The maximum tolerance time for each game is 30 minutes, counted from the moment the arbiter signals the start of the round. Draw agreements are not allowed before Black's move 30 is completed without the approval of the chief arbiter or deputy arbiter.

Accreditation

Accreditation will take place on August 21st, between 16:00 and 18:30, before the start of the first round. Accreditation consists of identity verification and registration confirmation. Only accredited players will be paired.



Rating

Tournament rating for FIDE Standard Elo will be requested. The tournament will be part of the Portugal Chess Tour 2025/2026 and will enable GM and IM norm opportunities. Pairings, results and standings will be available at:

- **Masters:** <https://s1.chess-results.com/tnr1369101.aspx>
- **U2000:** <https://s1.chess-results.com/tnr1369101.aspx>

Appeal

It is possible to appeal the decisions of the arbiter's team, in accordance with FIDE rules. To appeal a decision, the player must pay 50.00€ and submit the protest in writing to the appeal committee within half an hour after the end of the game. The amount will be refunded if the decision is favourable to the complainant. The appeal committee will be appointed in due course.

Forfeits

Players who forfeit in the first round will be eliminated from the tournament, except in exceptional situations accepted by the organization. Players who miss a round without justification will also be eliminated from the event.

Byes

Until round 4 (inclusive), each player may request three byes of 0.5 points each. In the remaining rounds, byes are allowed but with 0 points. Requests can be made by email to maiachessfestival@axm.pt until the end of the previous round, or directly with the arbiter's team. Bye requests will not be considered from players who have not yet paid the registration fee. Players invited by the organization are not covered by these provisions.



Prizes

Maia Chess Open - Masters (Elo equal to or greater than 2000)

Classification	Prize
1 st Place Overall	2,000€
2 nd Place Overall	1,000€
3 rd Place Overall	600€
4 th Place Overall	400€
5 th Place Overall	300€
6 th Place Overall	150€
7 th Place Overall	100€
8 th Place Overall	100€
9 th Place Overall	100€
10 th Place Overall	100€
Best Female Player	100€
Best Veteran +50	100€
Best Veteran +65	100€

Maia Chess Open - U2000

Classification	Prize
1 st Place Overall	1,000€
2 nd Place Overall	500€
3 rd Place Overall	400€
4 th Place Overall	300€
5 th Place Overall	200€
6 th Place Overall	150€
7 th Place Overall	100€
8 th Place Overall	100€
9 th Place Overall	100€
10 th Place Overall	100€
Best Female Player	100€
Best Veteran +50	100€
Best Veteran +65	100€

The top 3 overall finishers of the Masters tournament and the U2000 tournament, as well as the top finishers in the U08, U10, U12, U14 and U16 categories in the U2000 tournament, will receive trophies. Absence from the prize ceremony will result in forfeiture of the prize. Monetary prizes are not cumulative, the winner keeps the prize of higher value.



Tie-Breaks

If two or more players score the same points, the tie shall be decided by the following criteria, in order of priority:

Masters

1. Average Rating of Opponents Cut-1;
2. Buchholz Cut-1;
3. Buchholz;
4. Direct encounter;
5. Number of Wins;
6. Games descending (more is better).

U2000

1. Direct encounter;
2. Buchholz Cut-1;
3. Buchholz;
4. Sonneborn-Berger;
5. Games descending (more is better);
6. Number of Wins.

All tie-breaks are calculated as described in the FIDE Tie-Break Regulations (FIDE Handbook C.07).

In case of a tie between two players for first place, the organization may call a match between the players. Two games will be played at a time control of 10 minutes to complete the game, with 5 seconds increment per move, with the player with better tiebreak criteria choosing the initial color. If, after these two games, the result remains tied, two additional games will be played at a time control of 3 minutes to complete the game, with 2 seconds increment per move. If the tie persists, a final Armageddon game will be played, with 5 minutes for White and 4 minutes for Black, with an increment of 1 second per move from move 40.



Withdrawals

Withdrawals until August 1st will receive a full refund of the registration value and, between this date and August 19th, only 50 percent of the value will be refunded. From August 20th, there will be no right to a refund. In both cases, any applicable bank or payment processing fees will be deducted from the refund amount.

Final Provisions

- By registering and participating, players expressly accept the provisions of these regulations as well as FIDE regulations;
- The use of the credential is mandatory for all players in the playing area;
- Communication between players and the public is prohibited without the permission and supervision of the arbiters;
- The possession of electronic devices in the playing hall is strictly prohibited. A reception desk will be available at the entrance where all electronic devices must be deposited for the entire duration of each game. Failure to comply with this provision will result in the offender losing the game;
- Players must wear appropriate attire and maintain sportsmanlike conduct throughout the competition;
- All participants consent to the capture and use of photographs, videos and other media from the event for promotional purposes as the organization sees fit. Personal data collected will be used solely for event organization and communication with registrants;
- The organization reserves the right to:
 - grant or deny admission to the tournament;
 - amend these Regulations up until the day of the event;
 - exclude any player from the tournament if the arbiters deem it justified due to cheating or rule violations;
- The organization and arbiter's team will be appointed by AXM;
- Any cases not covered by these regulations shall be decided by the organization. Such decisions are final and not subject to appeal.



Douro Blitz Cruise

August 20th, 2026 | Cais de Gaia



A unique Blitz tournament played on a rabelo boat operated by Rota do Douro on the Douro River, with stunning views over Porto's Ribeira and Vila Nova de Gaia. An experience that combines Chess competition with the charm of the UNESCO World Heritage site.

Location

Address Av. de Diogo Leite 135, 4400 Vila Nova de Gaia

Map <https://maps.app.goo.gl/TNHF8AuJPS1hVyuj8>

Participants

The tournament is open to all players, regardless of age, upon registration through the form on the tournament website <https://axm.pt/registrations/>. Information via email maiachessfestival@axm.pt. The event is limited to 60 players and registrations can be made, at the latest, up to one hour before the start of the tournament (15:00).



Registration

Player Registration

	General	Maia Chess Open players	Groups >5
Until July 30 th , 2026	60.00€	50.00€	50.00€
Until August 20 th , 2026	70.00€	60.00€	60.00€

Passenger Registration

It is possible to register passengers who wish to join the trip without playing in the tournament.

	Until July 30 th , 2026	Until August 20 th , 2026
Price	40.00€	50.00€

Players with a GM title are exempt from the registration fee.

Registration is only valid after payment of the registration fee to Academia de Xadrez da Maia via IBAN PT50 0010 0000 5839 7720 0015 0 or via Wise transfer to IBAN BE05 9676 0506 7875.



Proof of payment must be submitted on the tournament website at <https://axm.pt/registrations/>.

An open bar with drinks is included in the registration fee (drinks limited to the available stock).

System

The tournament will be played in Swiss system with 7 rounds. Each player will have 3 minutes to complete the game, with 2 seconds increment per move.

Pairings will be made on board, after the boat departs, including only the players present.

Once a game is finished, players must leave the playing area.



Schedule

Time	Event
16:00	Boarding and Registration confirmation
16:15	Round 1
16:30	Round 2
16:45	Round 3
17:00	Round 4
17:15	Round 5
17:30	Round 6
17:45	Round 7

Cruise from 16:00 to 18:00.

The starting time of each round, except the first, may be adjusted so that a round begins immediately after the last game of the previous round has ended.

Prizes

The top three finishers will each receive a bottle of Port wine at the prize-giving ceremony of the Maia International Chess Festival on August 30th.

Tie-Breaks

If two or more players score the same points, the tie shall be decided by the following criteria, in order of priority:

1. Direct encounter;
2. Buchholz Cut-1;
3. Buchholz;
4. Sonneborn-Berger;
5. Games descending (more is better);
6. Number of Wins;

All tie-breaks are calculated as described in the FIDE Tie-Break Regulations (FIDE Handbook C.07).

In case of a tie between two players for first place, the organization may call a match between the players, with two games at a time control of 3 minutes to complete the game, with 2 seconds increment per move, with the player with better tiebreak criteria choosing the initial color. If, after the two games, the result remains tied, a final Armageddon game will be played, with 5 minutes for White and 4 minutes for Black, with an increment of 1 second per move from move 40.



Rating

Tournament rating for FIDE Blitz Elo will be requested. Pairings, results and standings will be available at <https://s3.chess-results.com/tnr1369103.aspx>.

Additional Rules

- By registering and participating, players expressly accept the provisions of these regulations as well as FIDE regulations;
- All participants consent to the capture and use of photographs, videos and other media from the event for promotional purposes as the organization sees fit. Personal data collected will be used solely for event organization and communication with registrants;
- The use of any electronic device in the playing area is strictly prohibited: if an electronic device emits any signal, the holder will be declared the loser. If the opponent cannot reach checkmate through any series of legal moves, the result will be half a point for the opponent and zero for the offender;
- Once their game is finished, players must leave the playing area;
- The organization and arbiter's team will be appointed by AXM;
- Any cases not covered by these regulations shall be decided by the organization. Such decisions are final and not subject to appeal.

Queens Maia Blitz

August 23rd, 2026 | Quinta dos Cónegos



A Blitz tournament exclusively for women, combining Chess competition with brunch in a relaxed and welcoming environment. Open to all women who want to play, learn and have fun.

Location

Quinta dos Cónegos is a unique space in the heart of Maia, surrounded by spacious and well-kept gardens, the perfect setting for a morning of Chess and brunch outdoors.

Address R. Souto 363, 4470-215 Maia

Map <https://maps.app.goo.gl/otoAGr36v5YsXcqL8>



Participants

The tournament is open to all women, regardless of age, upon registration through the form on the tournament website <https://axm.pt/registrations/>. Information via email maiachessfestival@axm.pt. The event is limited to 61 players and registrations can be made, at the latest, up to one hour before the start of the tournament (10:00).

Registration

	Maia Chess Open players	Other players
Until July 30 th , 2026	Free	Free
Until August 23 rd , 2026	Free	5.00€

Registration is only valid after confirmation on the tournament website at <https://axm.pt/registrations/>. When applicable, proof of payment must be submitted on the tournament website. Registration includes brunch.

Payment, when applicable, must be made to Academia de Xadrez da Maia via IBAN PT50 0010 0000 5839 7720 0015 0 or via Wise transfer to IBAN BE05 9676 0506 7875.



Schedule

Time	Event
10:30	Reception and Registration confirmation
11:00	Round 1
11:15	Round 2
11:30	Round 3
11:45	Round 4
12:00	Round 5
12:15	Round 6
12:30	Round 7
13:00	Brunch

The starting time of each round, except the first, may be adjusted so that a round begins immediately after the last game of the previous round has ended.

System

The tournament will be played in Swiss system with 7 rounds, this number being adjustable depending on the number of registered players. Each player will have 3 minutes to complete the game, with 2 seconds increment per move.

Players will be eliminated from the event upon the first unjustified absence or whose justification is not accepted by the organization. Once a game is finished, players must leave the playing area.

Prizes

The top three finishers will each receive a trophy at the prize-giving ceremony of the Maia International Chess Festival on August 30th.



Tie-Breaks

If two or more players score the same points, the tie shall be decided by the following criteria, in order of priority:

1. Direct encounter;
2. Buchholz Cut-1;
3. Buchholz;
4. Sonneborn-Berger;
5. Games descending (more is better);
6. Number of Wins;

All tie-breaks are calculated as described in the FIDE Tie-Break Regulations (FIDE Handbook C.07).

In case of a tie between two players for first place, the organization may call a match between the players, with two games at a time control of 3 minutes to complete the game, with 2 seconds increment per move, with the player with better tiebreak criteria choosing the initial color. If, after the two games, the result remains tied, a final Armageddon game will be played, with 5 minutes for White and 4 minutes for Black, with an increment of 1 second per move from move 40.

Rating

Tournament rating for FIDE Blitz Elo will be requested. Pairings, results and standings will be available at <https://s2.chess-results.com/tnr1369671.aspx>.

Additional Rules

- By registering and participating, players expressly accept the provisions of these regulations as well as FIDE regulations;
- All participants consent to the capture and use of photographs, videos and other media from the event for promotional purposes as the organization sees fit. Personal data collected will be used solely for event organization and communication with registrants;
- The use of any electronic device in the playing area is strictly prohibited: if an electronic device emits any signal, the holder will be declared the loser. If the opponent cannot reach checkmate through any series of legal moves, the result will be half a point for the opponent and zero for the offender;



- Once their game is finished, players must leave the playing area;
- The organization and arbiter's team will be appointed by AXM;
- Any cases not covered by these regulations shall be decided by the organization. Such decisions are final and not subject to appeal.



Maia Rapid Cup

August 25th, 2026 | TECMAIA



The Maia Rapid Cup 2026 is the last tournament of the circuit, determining the final cumulative circuit classification for the award of the circuit winners.

Location

TECMAIA is a modern technology park surrounded by ample green spaces, with excellent access and served by Porto Metro Line C.

Address R. Eng. Frederico Ulrich 2650, 4470-605 Maia
GPS 41.259249, -8.642422
Metro Porto Metro Line C (Mandim stop)
Map <https://maps.app.goo.gl/YKNXiJ2681BzBWUx8>

Registration

The tournament is open to all players, regardless of age, upon registration through the form on the tournament website <https://axm.pt/registrations/>. Information via



email maiachessfestival@axm.pt. The event is limited to 150 players and registrations can be made, at the latest, up to 15:30 on the day of the tournament.

	Maia Chess Open	
	players	Other players
Until July 30 th , 2026	10.00€	20.00€
Until August 25 th , 2026	20.00€	30.00€

Players who have participated in at least 5 tournaments of the Maia Rapid Cup 2026 Circuit are exempt from the registration fee. Players with GM, WGM, IM, WIM, FM and WFM titles are also exempt.

Registration is only valid after payment of the registration fee to Academia de Xadrez da Maia via IBAN PT50 0010 0000 5839 7720 0015 0, via Wise transfer to IBAN BE05 9676 0506 7875, or on-site on the day of the tournament.



Proof of payment must be submitted on the tournament website at <https://axm.pt/registrations/>.

Schedule

Time	Event
14:30	Reception and Registration confirmation
16:00	Round 1
16:40	Round 2
17:20	Round 3
18:00	Round 4
18:40	Round 5
19:20	Round 6
20:00	Round 7

The starting time of each round, except the first, may be adjusted so that a round begins immediately after the last game of the previous round has ended.



System

The tournament will be played in Swiss system with 7 rounds, this number being adjustable depending on the number of registered players. Each player will have 10 minutes to complete the game, with 5 seconds increment per move.

Players will be eliminated from the event upon the first unjustified absence or whose justification is not accepted by the organization. Once a game is finished, players must leave the playing area.

Tie-Breaks

If two or more players score the same points, the tie shall be decided by the following criteria, in order of priority:

1. Direct encounter;
2. Buchholz Cut-1;
3. Buchholz;
4. Sonneborn-Berger;
5. Games descending (more is better);
6. Number of Wins;

All tie-breaks are calculated as described in the FIDE Tie-Break Regulations (FIDE Handbook C.07).

In case of a tie between two players for first place, the organization may call a match between the players, with two games at a time control of 3 minutes to complete the game, with 2 seconds increment per move, with the player with better tiebreak criteria choosing the initial color. If, after the two games, the result remains tied, a final Armageddon game will be played, with 5 minutes for White and 4 minutes for Black, with an increment of 1 second per move from move 40.

Prizes

The following prizes will be awarded to the top three finishers at the prize-giving ceremony of the Maia International Chess Festival on August 30th:

Classification	Prize
1 st Place	300.00€
2 nd Place	200.00€
3 rd Place	100.00€



Circuit Cumulative Classification and Prizes

Each circuit tournament will award the following points to the players achieving the top ten placements:

Classification	Points
1 st Place	20 points
2 nd Place	15 points
3 rd Place	12 points
4 th Place	10 points
5 th Place	8 points
6 th Place	6 points
7 th Place	4 points
8 th Place	3 points
9 th Place	2 points
10 th Place	1 point

In case of a tie in the final circuit cumulative points, the tiebreak criteria will be the greater number of circuit tournaments played. In case of a further tie, the greater number of cumulative points across all tournaments, and in case of a further tie, a match between the players will be played, with two games at a time control of 3 minutes to complete the game, with 2 seconds increment per move, with the initial color decided by drawing of lots. If, after the two games, the result remains tied, a final Armageddon game will be played, with 5 minutes for White and 4 minutes for Black, with an increment of 1 second per move from move 40.

Circuit Cumulative Prizes

Classification	Prize
1 st Place Cumulative	200.00€
2 nd Place Cumulative	100.00€
3 rd Place Cumulative	50.00€
4 th Place Cumulative	30.00€
5 th Place Cumulative	20.00€
6 th Place Cumulative	20.00€
7 th Place Cumulative	20.00€

Rating

Tournament rating for FIDE Rapid Elo will be requested. Pairings, results and standings will be available at <https://s3.chess-results.com/tnr1369104.aspx>.



Additional Rules

- By registering and participating, players expressly accept the provisions of these regulations as well as FIDE regulations;
- All participants consent to the capture and use of photographs, videos and other media from the event for promotional purposes as the organization sees fit. Personal data collected will be used solely for event organization and communication with registrants;
- The use of any electronic device in the playing area is strictly prohibited: if an electronic device emits any signal, the holder will be declared the loser. If the opponent cannot reach checkmate through any series of legal moves, the result will be half a point for the opponent and zero for the offender;
- Once their game is finished, players must leave the playing area;
- The organization and arbiter's team will be appointed by AXM;
- Any cases not covered by these regulations shall be decided by the organization. Such decisions are final and not subject to appeal.