

First Chola Chess Open International Grandmasters Chess Tournament 2026

Organised by Chola Chess, an initiative of Chola Foundation, in partnership with Chess Gurukul

AICF Event Code: 500978/TN/2026 | TNSCA Event Code: INT-07/CHE/26-27

 **30th October to 7th November, 2026**  **Chennai, India**



About the Tournament

The **First Chola Chess Open International Grandmasters Chess Tournament** is a FIDE-rated international event hosted by Chola Chess in Chennai. The event is conducted in accordance with the **FIDE Laws of Chess**.

This Open tournament is designed to provide participants with the opportunity to achieve **GM, IM, WGM and WIM norms**. With its international scope and professional standards, the event offers a distinguished platform for players to showcase their skills and advance their titles.

Venue

WELCOMHOTEL BY ITC HOTELS

Cathedral Road, Chennai – 600 086

 +91 89259 84477

 info@cholachess.com

Eligibility



Players with a **FIDE Rating of 2250 or above** as on **1st October 2026 FIDE rating list**.

Entry Fee



₹10,000/-

No Entry Fee for GMs and WGMs

Prize Fund



TOTAL PRIZE FUND: ₹50,00,000

Main Prize

1 st Place	– ₹10,00,000
2 nd Place	– ₹8,00,000
3 rd Place	– ₹6,00,000
4 th Place	– ₹5,00,000
5 th Place	– ₹4,00,000
6 th Place	– ₹3,50,000
7 th Place	– ₹3,00,000
8 th Place	– ₹2,50,000
9 th Place	– ₹2,25,000
10 th Place	– ₹2,00,000

Category Prize

Best Female

1st – ₹50,000 | 2nd – ₹25,000

Best Junior

Born on or after January 1, 2007

1st – ₹50,000 | 2nd – ₹25,000

Rating Category 2351–2450

1st – ₹50,000 | 2nd – ₹35,000 | 3rd – ₹25,000

Rating Category 2250–2350

1st – ₹40,000 | 2nd – ₹30,000 | 3rd – ₹20,000

Best Veteran (Above 60 yrs)

₹25,000

Indian Income Tax Act and rules in force will be applicable for TDS purpose.

Tournament Format



FIDE SWISS SYSTEM



9 ROUNDS



TIME CONTROL

90 Min / 40 Move + 30 Min / End + 30 Sec Increment per Move from Move 1 | Default Time: 15 Minutes

Schedule

Inauguration | 30th October 2026 | 1:00 PM

Round 1 to 8 | 30th October 2026 to 6th November 2026 | 2:00 PM

Round 9 | 7th November 2026 | 10:00 AM

Closing Ceremony | 7th November 2026 | 5:00 PM

Tie-Break Criteria

 **Buchholz Cut 1**

 **Buchholz**

 **Sonneborn-Berger (SB)**

 **Direct Encounter**

 **Greater Number of Wins** (including forfeit points)

 **Number of Wins with Black**

Regulations

- Players shall not agree for a draw without the consent of the arbiter, before each player makes **30 moves**.
- All Indian players must be registered with AICF for the year **2026–2027** before the registration deadline to participate in the tournament.
- All Tamil Nadu players must be registered with TNSCA as player for the year **2026–2027** before the registration deadline to participate in the tournament.
- Protest, if any, against the decision of the Chief Arbiter shall be made in writing with a **protest fee of ₹3,000/- (Rs. Three thousand only)** within **15 minutes** of the occurrence of the incident. **The protest fee will be refunded if the appeal is upheld.**
- Before the commencement of the tournament, a five-member Appeals Committee with two reserves shall be formed by the organizers. All the members and reserves shall be from different federations. No member of the committee can vote on a dispute in which a player from his/her own federation is involved. In such a case, the reserve member(s) shall take his/her place in the committee.
- All electronic items including **wrist watches (all type of watches)** are not allowed in the tournament hall.

Application Procedure

To apply for participation, players are required to **Send an official email to info@CholaChess.com before 5th October 2026**. Non-Indian titled players are requested to write to us at info@cholachess.com / call 8925984477 for the tournament conditions.