

## Rules of the 2026 Canadian Zonal chess tournament

1 Tournament venue: Maison du Loisir et du Sport 7665 Boulevard Lacordaire, Montréal, Quebec, Canada.

### 2 Zonal Tournament schedule

Event	Time
Pairings	9h
Technical meeting	Thursday April 2 <sup>nd</sup> 2026 9h
Round	Time
Round 1	Thursday April 2 <sup>nd</sup> 2026 10h
Round 2	Thursday April 2 <sup>nd</sup> 2026 16h
Round 3	Friday April 3 <sup>rd</sup> 2026 10h
Round 4	Friday April 3 <sup>rd</sup> 2026 16h
Round 5	Saturday April 4 <sup>th</sup> 2026 10 h
Round 6	Saturday April 4 <sup>th</sup> 2026 16h
Round 7	Monday April 6 <sup>th</sup> 2026 10h
Round 8	Monday April 6 <sup>th</sup> 2026 16h
Round 9	Tuesday April 7 <sup>th</sup> 2026 10h
Award ceremony	Tuesday April 7 <sup>th</sup> 2026 16h or as soon as possible

### 3 Tournament time control

3.1 The time control is 90 minutes for the whole game with the addition of 30 seconds per move from move 1 (G90+ 30 seconds per move).

### 4 Default time

4.1 The default time is one hour.

### 5 Draw by agreement

5.1 Not allowed before both player made their 30<sup>th</sup> move.

### 6 Half-point byes

6.1 Those are not allowed in FIDE Level 1 tournaments.

### 7 Eligibility:

7.1 Canadian Closed: minimum 2000 FIDE/ 2100 CFC or FQE 2100

7.2 Canadian Women's Closed: minimum 1400 FIDE or 1400 CFC/FQE

7.3 FIDE ratings will be used for pairings. Unrated FIDE players will be seeded by CFC/FQE rating.

## 8 Tournament organization

8.1 The tournament shall be divided into two official sections. The two official sections being:

8.1.1 the Open Zonal, open to all Canadian players who comply with the CFC regulations and

8.1.2 the Women Zonal, open to all female players who comply with CFC regulations.

## 9 What is at stake

9.1 Open Zonal: the title of *Canadian Champion 2025*, the right to represent Canada at the Open World Cup and the right to be a member of the Canadian Open national team with a guaranteed participation to the Open Chess Olympiad. Direct titles are available.

9.2 Women Zonal: the title of *Woman Canadian Champion 2025*, the right to represent Canada at the Women World Cup and the right to be a member of the Canadian Women national team with a guaranteed participation to the Women Chess Olympiad. Direct titles are available.

9.3 Direct titles

9.3.1 See <https://handbook.fide.com/chapter/B01DirectTitles2026>

## 10 Close of registration

10.1 No registration of new player after March 31<sup>st</sup> 2026.

## 11 Format of the Zonal tournament

11.1 For the Open Zonal, a nine round Swiss tournament paired using FIDE Dutch pairings with no accelerated pairing and no deviation from the official pairings such as family protection (not pairing the members of the same family).

11.2 For the Women Zonal, ideally the same format, but if the number of players is insufficient, the tournament could be changed to a round robin.

## 12 Tiebreak

12.1 Tiebreaks will be used only to determine the first three positions. Cash prizes will be shared among the winners.

12.2 List of Zonal tournaments tiebreak, if played as a 9 round Swiss

- 12.2.1 Direct Encounter
- 12.2.2 Buchholz Cut 2
- 12.2.3 Buchholz
- 12.2.4 Number of Wins, including forfeit wins (WIN in the FIDE list of tiebreaks)
- 12.2.5 Tournament Performance Rating
- 12.2.6 Drawing of lots (Mandatory under the new FIDE tiebreak rules)
  
- 13 Price TBA by the organiser.
  
- 14 Fair play
- 14.1 As per FIDE rules.
- 14.2 Telephones and watches out of the playing venue
  
- 15 Pairing one hour before the round, unless exception.
  
- 16 Arbiters TBA
  
- 17 Appeal Committee
- 17.1 At least three certified arbiters
- 17.2 Notified Chief Arbiter at the time of the offence. Put the appeal in writing within one hour of the end of the game. A deposit of 250\$ (CAD) must be made for the appeal to be accepted.