



INVITATION & REGULATIONS

The inaugural 2026 Amateur Chess Championship (**FIDE-rated**) will be held on September 27th, October 4th, and October 11th, 2026 at The Liguanea Club: Sports and Recreational Centre in New Kingston, Jamaica.

Players will compete in U2000, U1700, and U1500 categories over six rounds of classical chess, using a 90-minute + 30-second increment per move time control. Trophies and sectional awards will be presented. Sections with seven (7) or fewer players will use a Round Robin format and categories may be merged if necessary.

The top three (3) finishers in each championship will receive:

- Entry into the 2027 Amateur Chess Championship, subject to the applicable eligibility and entry conditions and a CFC Certificate. The player who finishes first in the U2000 Section will be declared the overall winner of the 2026 Amateur Chess Championship.

In addition, the winner of each designated age-group category will receive a CFC Certificate.

EVENT DETAILS

Event Information	Details
Dates	September 27, October 4 & October 11, 2026
City / Country	New Kingston, Jamaica
Venue	80 Knutsford Boulevard – The Liguanea Club: Sports and Recreational Centre (Bougainvillea Room)
Organizer	JamCan Chess



Tournament Director	Destynie Morrison
Chief Arbiter	FA Natoya Anderson
Format	Up to 3 Swiss-System Open Championships
Rounds	6
Time Control	90 minutes + 30-second increment per move
Pairing System	Swiss System
Rating	FIDE Standard
Categories	U2000, U1700 & U1500
Entry Eligibility	FIDE ID Required
Chess-Results – U2000	U2000 Tournament Page
Chess-Results – U1700	U1700 Tournament Page
Chess-Results – U1500	U1500 Tournament Page

SCHEDULE

Date	Time (HRS)	Activity
Sunday, September 27 th	08:30	Opening Ceremony
Sunday, September 27 th	09:00	Round 1
Sunday, September 27 th	14:00	Round 2
Sunday, October 4 th	09:00	Round 3
Sunday, October 4 th	14:00	Round 4
Sunday, October 11 th	09:00	Round 5
Sunday, October 11 th	14:00	Round 6
Sunday, October 11 th	18:30	Closing ceremony & awards

REGISTRATION & ELIGIBILITY

The registration fee is JMD \$5,000 per player. Registrations are non-refundable.

Players must have an existing FIDE ID and provide their full name and FIDE ID when registering. Players are responsible for ensuring their FIDE information is accurate before submitting their entry.

[Register – 2026 Amateur Chess Championship](#)



SECTIONS / GROUPS

Eligibility depends on a player's highest published FIDE rating during **August 2025-September 2026** year, together with the title restrictions listed below.

Section	Eligibility
U2000 Open	No published FIDE rating of 2000 or higher during 2025-2026; no title above FM
U1700 Open	No published FIDE rating of 1700 or higher during 2025-2026; no title above CM
U1500 Open	No published FIDE rating of 1500 or higher during 2025-2026; no over-the-board title.

TIME CONTROL & TOURNAMENT FORMAT

Six Swiss-system rounds will be played with a time control of 90 minutes + 30-second increment from move one. Pairings will be generated using Swiss-Manager, with results and available PGNs published on Chess-Results.

Players arriving more than 30 minutes after the scheduled start will lose by default.

Tie-breaks:

1. Direct Encounter
2. Buchholz Cut 1
3. Buchholz Total
4. Number of Wins
5. Sonneborn-Berger

BYES & ABSENCES

Should the number of players to be paired to be odd, one player is unpaired, a player who has already received a pairing – allocated bye, or has already scored a (forfeit) win due to an opponent not appearing in time shall not receive the pairing allocated bye. The value of a pairing allocated bye should be equivalent to the value of a win. Players can request a zero-point bye for round 1-5 if needed. Maximum number of byes per player is two (2). All byes are to be requested before the end of round two (2).

If a player is absent from a round without approval from the chief arbiter, the player will be automatically removed from the competition.



DRAW RULE: No draw may be offered or agreed upon by the players before the completion of move 30.

OTHER INFORMATION

The organizer will provide all chess pieces, boards, and digital clocks.

Players may not bring mobile phones, smartwatches, tablets, or other communication devices into the playing area. A violation results in the loss of the game.

FIDE Fair Play and anti-cheating regulations apply throughout the championship.

Participants are expected to attend the official opening and closing activities.

An appeal shall be accompanied by a fee of USD one hundred dollars (**USD \$100**) in written format no later than one hour of the played game. The decision of the appeal committee shall be final. The fee is refundable if the appeal is successful. The fee (or part of it) may also be returned if the appeal is unsuccessful but is considered reasonable in the view of the committee.

Only authorized photographers may take photographs in the playing venue unless the chief arbiter decides otherwise. By participating, players authorize the organizers to use tournament photographs and video recordings for event communication.

APPEALS COMMITTEE

- CM Mark Holness (JAM) -V.P Jamaica Chess Federation - Chairperson
- IA/WFM Rinelly M. Comas Colon (PUR) - International Arbiter
- CM Equitable Brown (JAM) - Member of Committee

FAIR PLAY TEAM

- Richard Newman (USA) – FIDE Fair Play Commission Member - Officer
- Stephen Howell (JAM) – Team Member

PRIZE

The following distribution applies separately to each U2000, U1700, and U1500 section:

CATEGORY AWARDS	
Place	Each Open Section
1st Place	Trophy + Diploma
2nd Place	Trophy + Diploma
3rd Place	Trophy + Diploma



SECTIONAL AWARDS	
The Ascent Award (<i>Unrated players are ineligible</i>)	Trophy
Top U1850 (U2000 category)	Trophy + Diploma
Top U1600 (U1700 category)	Trophy + Diploma
Top Unrated Player (U1500 category)	Trophy + Diploma
Top U7, U9, U11, U13, U15, U17	Medal
Top Female	Medal
Best Primary/Prep School	Plaque
Best High School	Plaque
Best College/University	Plaque

- **Top Ascent Award:** Awarded to the player who demonstrates the greatest competitive rise during the championship, measured by the highest rating gain or significant performance milestone achieved over the course of the competition.
- **Best School Award:** Awarded to the school with the highest average score among its top three (3) performing players. The total points earned by the school's three highest-scoring players across the championship will be combined and divided by three to determine the school's final average. Only schools with at least three participating players will be eligible.
- Additional prizes, special awards, and exciting surprises will be presented throughout the Championship.

CONTACT:

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