

2019 GCT Tour Regulations

The 2019 Grand Chess Tour is a series of elite tournaments in which the participating players are eligible to earn Grand Chess Tour Points in accordance with their final rank in each Event. At the end of the regular 2019 GCT Season, the four players with the most Tour Points shall proceed to the GCT Tour Finals in London where they will compete for additional prize money and the title of the 2019 Grand Chess Tour Champion.

1. Preamble

The 2019 Grand Chess Tour will consist of two 12-player Round Robin Tournaments played at Classical time controls and five 10-player Round Robin Tournaments played at both Rapid & Blitz time controls. A total of twelve full tour participants will be selected for the 2019 GCT season with each full tour participant required to participate in both classical chess tournaments as well as in three of the available five Rapid & Blitz events. Players will earn GCT points in all events and the results of every event will count towards the final GCT standings at the end of the regular season.

The contents of these Tour Regulations apply to the GCT Tour Finals in London only in so far as the context applies. Detailed regulations for the GCT Tour Finals in London will be published by no later than September 30, 2019.

2. Tour Points

Tour Points shall be awarded based on the final ranking of each full tour player in each event as set out below. Tour Points shall be shared equally between tied players and shall not be impacted by the result of any playoff or tiebreaks that may take place.

Place	Classical Events	Rapid & Blitz Events (based on combined standings)
1 st	18 / 20*	12 / 13*
2 nd	15	10
3 rd	12	8
4 th	10	7
5 th	8	6
6 th	7	5
7 th	6	4
8 th	5	3
9 th	4	2
10 th	3	1
11 th	2	N/A
12 th	1	N/A

** Any player who wins an Event outright (without the need for a playoff) shall earn two extra Tour Points in the Classical Events and one extra Tour Point in the Rapid & Blitz events.*

3. Scoring

In the Classical Events, the standings shall be determined by the allocation of:

- 1 point for a win, ½ point for a draw and 0 points for a loss in all games.

In the Rapid & Blitz Events the standings shall be determined by the allocation of:

- 2 points for a win, 1 point for a draw and 0 points for a loss in a Rapid game; and
- 1 point for a win, ½ point for a draw and 0 points for a loss in a Blitz game.

4. Tiebreaks

Tiebreak regulations for Players tied for first in an individual Event and for players who tie in the standings of the 2019 Grand Chess Tour are addressed in the "2019 GCT Tiebreak Regulations", which are incorporated as part of these 2019 GCT Tour Regulations.

5. Laws of Chess

Unless otherwise specified, all Events shall be governed by the FIDE Laws of Chess.

6. FIDE Rating

All games except Armageddon games shall be submitted for the appropriate category of FIDE rating and will also be submitted for rating within the Universal Rating System (URS™).

7. Competitive Play

To promote competitive play during all GCT Classical games, it will not be permitted for players to offer or agree to a draw. In the event of a claim for a draw under Article 9.2 of the Laws (three-fold repetition) or under Article 9.3 of the Laws (50 move rule), one of the Event Arbiters must be asked by the players to verify the claim.

No specific rules with regards to draws shall apply to games played at either Rapid or Blitz time controls. This shall apply both to regular tournament games played as part of the GCT Rapid and Blitz events and to any playoff games that may be required to be played to split ties at any GCT events.

8. Qualification to the GCT Finals in London

The top 4 players with the most GCT Tour Points at the end of the regular 2019 GCT Tour Season (based on their participation in two classical and three rapid and blitz events) will qualify to participate in the GCT Finals in London where they will play matches for a further prize fund of USD 350,000.

9. Appeals

Any player wishing to appeal a decision made by an Event Arbiter must notify the Event Chief Arbiter of his intention to appeal within 15 minutes of the end of the round and before the start of any subsequent rounds scheduled for the same day. A written appeal must then be submitted within 30 minutes of the end of the final round on the day.

The GCT will appoint a 3-person Appeals Committee before the commencement of play at each Event. The appointed Appeals Committee shall include at least one member of the GCT Advisory Board and, if possible, an International Arbiter. No member of the Appeals Committee shall serve in respect of an appeal where he or she has been involved in the original decision. In such circumstances the GCT shall appoint a substitute.

In the event of an appeal the Appeals Committee will convene a meeting to address the appeal at the end of the day's play. The Appeals Committee will be responsible for all decisions. A decision regarding any appeals received will be made before the start of play on the next day. The decision of the Appeals Committee shall be final and binding for both Player and GCT.

Where there is no International Arbiter on the Appeals Committee, the Committee shall endeavour to consult one before reaching their decision. The Appeals Committee may also consult with additional members of the GCT Advisory Board at their sole discretion should they believe this is appropriate.