

January 17, 2020

*For Immediate Release***2020 GCT to Feature Ten Full Tour Participants and Five Events**

Saint Louis, MO, January 17, 2020 – The sixth edition of the Grand Chess Tour (GCT) will feature five tournaments with the participation of ten full tour players and ten wildcards. Ten participants will compete for a total prize fund of \$1.275 million over the course of the season. The prize money on offer for two classical tournaments will be \$325,000 per event while the prize fund for the rapid and blitz events will be \$150,000 each. In addition, bonus prize fund totalling \$175,000 will be awarded to the top three overall tour finishers.

Following the success of the inaugural tournament in Bucharest last year, the Romanian capital will host, in May, the first classical event of the 2020 tour season. The 2020 Sinquefield Cup in September will be the final leg of the tour. The 2020 Grand Chess Tour major sponsors are Vivendi SA, Colliers International, Saint Louis Chess Club, Croatia National Tourist Board and Superbet Foundation.

The 2020 Superbet Chess Classic Romania and the 2020 Sinquefield Cup will be the two classical tournaments and the tour will also feature three rapid and blitz events which will be held in Zagreb, Paris and Saint Louis. Due to the busy 2020 chess calendar which includes the Candidates tournament, the World Chess Olympiad and the World Championship match, there will be no “GCT Finals” tournament in 2020. The final tour standings will hence be decided based on the GCT points accumulated by all full tour players over the course of the five tournaments.

The ten full tour participants will all play in both classical events as well as in two of the three rapid and blitz tournaments. The full schedule for the 2020 season (including arrival and departure days) is as follows:

1. Superbet Chess Classic Romania: May 3 - 16, 2020, Bucharest, Romania
2. Paris Grand Chess Tour: June 22 - 29, 2020, Paris, France
3. Croatia Grand Chess Tour: July 2 - 9, 2020, Zagreb, Croatia
4. Saint Louis Rapid & Blitz: August 22 - 31, 2020, Saint Louis, Missouri USA
5. Sinquefield Cup: August 29 - September 11, 2020, Saint Louis, Missouri USA

Full Tour Participants

The ten invited full tour players for the 2020 season were selected in the following order:

#s	Selection Methodology	Notes	Players
1 - 3	2019 GCT Standings	The top three winners from the 2019 Grand Chess Tour	Ding, Vachier-Lagrave, Carlsen
4 - 6	FIDE Classical Rating	Top 3 (not already selected) based on the FIDE classical ratings at January 1, 2020	Caruana, Grischuk, Nepomniachtchi,
7 - 9	Universal Rating System	Top 3 (not already selected) based on the Universal Rating List at January 1, 2020	Nakamura, So, Aronian
10	GCT Nominee	Selected by the GCT Advisory Board	Giri

The following 10 players will be offered full tour contracts for the 2020 season. All ratings listed are from the respective ratings lists as at January 1, 2020.

#	Name	FED	URS (Rank)	FIDE (Rank)
1	Carlsen, Magnus	NOR	2857 (1)	2872 (1)
2	Ding, Liren	CHN	2803 (2)	2805 (3)
3	Nakamura, Hikaru	USA	2801 (3)	2736 (21)
4	Vachier-Lagrave, Maxime	FRA	2793 (4)	2770 (7)
5	Caruana, Fabiano	USA	2787 (5)	2822 (2)
6	So, Wesley	USA	2786 (6)	2765 (10)
7	Grischuk, Alexander	RUS	2778 (7)	2777 (4)
8	Aronian, Levon	ARM	2774 (8)	2773 (6)
9	Nepomniachtchi, Ian	RUS	2769 (9)	2774 (5)
10	Giri, Anish	NED	2755 (18)	2768 (9)

Mr Michael Khodarkovsky, the Executive Director of the Grand Chess Tour made the following comment while announcing the names of the selected players. *“After successfully hosting five full tour seasons, the Grand Chess Tour is proud of its record of attracting the very best players available each year. Our 2020 selections continue this tradition as every player selected as a full tour participant is currently ranked inside the top 10 either by FIDE or by the URS™. The ten players that will compete as full tour participants in 2020 have fully justified their selection by consistently performing at the highest standards for many years.”*

###

About the Grand Chess Tour (<http://grandchesstour.org>)

The Grand Chess Tour is a circuit of international events, each demonstrating the highest level of organization for the world's best players. The legendary Garry Kasparov, one of the world's greatest ambassadors for chess, inspired the Grand Chess Tour and helped solidify the partnership between the organizers.

About the URS™ (<http://universalrating.com>)

The Universal Rating System (URS™), is a new sport's rating system designed to assess the relative strength of participants across a wide variety of competitor vs competitor sports. The URS™ was developed as the result of a collaborative research project funded by the Grand Chess Tour, the Kasparov Chess Foundation and the Saint Louis Chess Club. The system is the product of detailed research conducted over more than two years by leading experts in methods of rating chess players.

Grand Chess Tour



325 N. Euclid Avenue, Saint Louis, MO 63108, USA

info@grandchesstour.org
