

2021 GCT Tour Regulations

The 2021 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 2021 GCT Season, bonus payments totalling USD 175,000 will be paid out to the top 3 finishers based on the accumulated GCT Tour Points over the season.

1. Preamble

The 2021 Grand Chess Tour will consist of two 10-player Round Robin Tournaments played at Classical time controls and three 10-player Round Robin Tournaments played at both Rapid & Blitz time controls. A total of ten full tour participants will be selected for the 2021 GCT season with each full tour participant required to participate in both classical chess tournaments as well as in two of the available three 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.

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. The same point allocations shall apply to both the classical and rapid and blitz events. 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	GCT Tour Points
1 st	12 / 13*
2 nd	10
3 rd	8
4 th	7
5 th	6
6 th	5
7 th	4
8 th	3
9 th	2
10 th	1

* Any player who wins an Event outright (without the need for a playoff) shall earn a bonus GCT Tour Point for the outright victory.

3. GCT Tour Winner Bonuses

The three players who score the most GCT Tour Points over the course of the 2021 Season shall be awarded Bonus Payments as follows:

1 st	USD 100,000
2 nd	USD 50,000
3 rd	<u>USD 25,000</u>
Total	<u>USD 175,000</u>

4. 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.

5. Tiebreaks

Tiebreak regulations for Players tied for first in an individual Event and for players who tie in the final standings of the 2021 Grand Chess Tour are addressed in the "2021 GCT Tiebreak Regulations", which are incorporated as part of these 2021 GCT Tour Regulations.

6. Laws of Chess

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

7. Rating of games played

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™). The GCT shall seek any necessary permission from FIDE to ensure that all games played are rated (except Armageddon games).

8. Competitive Play

To promote competitive play during all GCT events, it will not be permitted for players to offer or agree to a draw in any game of a 2021 GCT event, including playoff games. 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.

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. There shall be no fee unless the Appeals Committee considers the appeal to have been frivolous or vexatious.

The GCT will appoint an Appeals Committee panel before the commencement of play at each Event. The appointed Appeals Committee shall consist of 3 persons and 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 consider this to be appropriate.