

2023 Grand Chess Tour Notes for Players and Arbiters

These notes have been prepared to provide regulations for Grand Chess Tour (GCT) events to some common issues not covered by FIDE regulations. The GCT will make every effort to be understanding and fair in relation to complications that may still be caused by the pandemic. In return we ask for similar understanding from Tour Players.

Please note that the following decisions have been made after due consideration by the GCT. They do not fall within the remit of Event Arbiters or Appeal Committees.

1. What is the official source of information regarding an event?

The information document circulated to players and their representatives should be regarded as definitive. Every effort will be made to keep the GCT website accurate and up to date. If updates become necessary, these will be distributed to players and representatives immediately.

2. Will pairings be modified with a view to giving a player a relatively even distribution of Whites and Blacks across the entire Tour.

Only for the two Classical events. The pairings for the Sinquefeld Cup will be the same as for the Superbet Chess Classic Romania but with the colours reversed, apart from the difference in the identity of the Wildcard.

3. What will happen if a Full Tour Player is unable to take part in an event?

The player will be allowed to play in the remaining events in which they are scheduled to take part, and to earn prize money and Tour Points accordingly. If an alternate is available, they will replace the absent player. Otherwise, the event will proceed with 9 players and the prize money and the Tour Points for the first 9 places will be earned.

4. What happens if a player arrives late for an event?

Players are asked to allow for the likelihood of travel problems and make their arrangements accordingly. If a player has a legitimate reason for arriving late, the following regulations will apply.

In a Classical event:

- A player who misses Round 1 will be allowed to play their Round 1 game on the rest day.
- A player who is not present for Round 2 will be excluded and replaced by a substitute player if one is available. The substitute will play their Round 2 game as soon as possible on the day of Round 2. They will play their Round 1 game on the rest day.

In a Rapid and Blitz event:

- A player who does not arrive in time to play will not be permitted to play in the Rapid portion and will be replaced by a substitute if one is available. The original player may play in the Blitz portion if they arrive in time to do so.
- The prize money will be split equally between the two players and the Tour player will be awarded half of the Tour points for the combined score.

5. What happens if a player is taken ill during an event?

If a player is taken ill during an event and cannot complete it, their results will stand if they have completed half the games, but shall otherwise be annulled. For this purpose, the Rapid and Blitz portions of a Rapid and Blitz event will be treated separately, and the Player's Blitz results will stand if they have completed the first cycle of that event.

If a player is taken ill during the Rapid portion of an event, a substitute may be introduced for the Blitz portion. In that situation the prize money will be split equally between the two players and the Tour player will be awarded half of the Tour points for the combined score.

Please note that the following regulations have been approved by the GCT in consultation with the GCT Chief Arbiter and the GCT Deputy Chief Arbiter. These regulations fall within the remit of Event Arbiters and Appeal Committees.

6. Default Times

If Player is more than ten (10) minutes late for a Classical round, Player shall forfeit such round. If Player is more than three (3) minutes late for a Rapid or Blitz round, Player shall forfeit such round.

7. Rapid and Blitz Event Regulations

For Rapid and Blitz events, Articles A.5 and B.3 of the FIDE Laws of Chess will apply. Please note that Article A.3, applicable to both rapid and blitz games, was updated on January 1, 2023, "The penalties mentioned in Articles 7 and 9 of the Competitive Rules of Play shall be one minute instead of two minutes."

8. Displaced Pieces

Where a player displaces one or more pieces on the chessboard during a game and does not replace them in their own time, the other player may stop the clock and call for an arbiter (who shall stop the clock if this has not been done).

Where arbiter intervention is necessary, the following penalties shall apply. The same penalties shall apply in subsequent rounds.

- First occurrence: The arbiter shall warn the offending player that on the next occurrence it will be treated as an illegal move.
- Second occurrence: This is now treated as an illegal move and action shall be taken by the arbiter according to the number of illegal moves already done by the offending player in the same game.
- Third occurrence: This is treated as a second illegal move, so the penalty will be a loss of the game for the offending player.