

# Regulations for the Women's FIDE Grand Prix Series 2019-2020

## 1. Scope

**1. 1.** Governing Body of the Women's FIDE Grand Prix Series 2019-2020 (hereinafter referred to as WGP Series) is the World Chess Federation (FIDE).

**1. 2.** FIDE Global Strategy Commission (hereinafter referred to as GSC) is in charge for preparing regulations, communicating with the Organizer and the participants.

**1. 3.** The body responsible for adopting and changing these Regulations is the FIDE Presidential Board, upon recommendation by GSC.

**1. 4.** At any time, any circumstance or unforeseen situation not covered in these Regulations shall be referred to the FIDE President for final decision.

## 2. WGP Series Format

**2. 1.** WGP Series consist of four (4) Women' Grand Prix tournaments (hereinafter referred to as WGP tournaments) held over two years (2019-20):

1<sup>st</sup> – between July 20<sup>th</sup> and August 10<sup>th</sup> 2019;

2<sup>nd</sup> – between December 1<sup>st</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> 2019;

3<sup>rd</sup> – between March 1<sup>st</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> 2020;

4<sup>th</sup> – between May 20<sup>th</sup> and June 10<sup>th</sup> 2020.

**2. 3.** Sixteen (16) players compete in four WGP tournaments.

**2. 4.** Each of the sixteen players participate in three (3) out of four WGP tournaments. After the final list of host cities is announced and the dates are allocated to each host city, the players may rank their preferences of tournaments to play in. FIDE reserves the right to assign players to tournaments according to the organizational needs. The players for each tournament are announced before the cycle begins.

**2. 5.** Each WGP tournament is played with twelve (12) players round robin (see 5.1.).

**2. 6.** In each WGP tournament every player scores WGP points according to her position in the final standings (see 5.9.1.).

**2. 7.** The winner of WGP Series is a player who scores the most number of cumulative points earned in all three WGP tournaments she played. In the case of two or more players having equal cumulative points at the top of the WGP Series standings, the following criteria (in descending order) is used to decide the WGP Series winner:

- No. of actual game result points scored in the three tournaments;
- No. of 1<sup>st</sup> places (clear 1<sup>st</sup> place is higher than first-second tie; first-second tie is higher than first-third tie etc.);
- No. of 2<sup>nd</sup> places (clear 2<sup>nd</sup> place is higher than second-third tie; second-third tie is higher than second-fourth tie etc.);
- No. of wins;
- Drawing of lots.

**2. 8.** The two (2) players who score the most number of cumulative points in WGP Series qualify to the FIDE Women Candidates Tournament to be held in the first half of 2021.

Should one of these two players be the current Women World Champion or has already qualified to the FIDE Women Candidates Tournament 2021 at the end of the WGP Series, her qualification spot goes to the highest placed player in the WGP Series final standings who is not the current Women World Champion and not qualified to the FIDE Women Candidates Tournament 2021 at the end of WGP Series.

**2. 9.** The accumulated prize fund of the final standings of WGP Series is composed as follows:

Four Organizers' contribution (see 5.9.5.): 20,000 euros X 4 = 80,000 euros.

The prizes are distributed as follows:

<b>PLACE</b>	<b>PRIZE (euros)</b>
1 <sup>st</sup>	20,000
2 <sup>nd</sup>	16,000
3 <sup>rd</sup>	13,000
4 <sup>th</sup>	10,500
5 <sup>th</sup>	8,000
6 <sup>th</sup>	5,500
7 <sup>th</sup>	4,000
8 <sup>th</sup>	3,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>80,000</b>

All prize money is divided equally among the players with the same number of cumulative points in the final standings of WGP Series.

### **3. Qualification for WGP Series**

**3. 1.** The players who qualify for WGP are determined according to the following criteria:

**a) Average FIDE Rating of the 12 monthly lists starting from May 1<sup>st</sup> 2018 to April 1<sup>st</sup> 2019.**

Twelve (12) players qualify by their average rating.

For the purpose of deciding twelve (12) qualifiers by rating, the average ELO from the twelve standard FIDE rating lists from May 1<sup>st</sup> 2018 to April 1<sup>st</sup> 2019 is used. In case of equality, two decimals are taken into consideration. If the numbers are still equal then the total number of rated games in all 12 standard rating periods shall be decisive: the player with the most number of games qualifies.

**b) One player is nominated by each Organizer.**

The four (4) nominated players must be ranked among the top 50 players in the world at least twice in the twelve standard FIDE rating lists from May 1<sup>st</sup> 2018 to April 1<sup>st</sup> 2019.

**3. 2.** If any replacement is needed for a player qualified by average rating including due to a withdrawal or a refusal of participation, the average rating list serves for the purpose, as described in article 3. 1. a.

**3. 3.** If any replacement is needed for a nominated player including due to a withdrawal or a refusal of participation, the Organizer who nominated this player shall nominate another one who fits the criteria described in article 3. 1. b.

### **4. Confirmation of participation in WGP Series**

**4. 1.** The list of qualified players is to be published on the FIDE website together with the player's contract.

**4. 2.** Each qualified player receives her contract by email. She may also download her contract from the FIDE website. Each player shall sign and send her contract to the FIDE Secretariat by the registered email before the fixed deadline. Additional contracts between the Organizer and the players may be signed if needed.

**4. 3.** A player who does not submit her contract before the deadline shall be replaced according to articles 3. 2. and 3. 3. (FIDE may accept late contracts received after the deadline only for reasons GSC considers to be admissible).

**4. 4.** A player who signs her contract but withdraws is to be replaced by a player as described in articles 3. 2. and 3.3.

**4. 5.** Players who fail to provide a satisfactory reason for withdrawal, after they have signed the player's contract, may be sanctioned by the FIDE Presidential Board.

### **5. WGP tournament regulations**

## **5. 1. Format & System**

The 12 players play a round robin tournament (11 rounds).

## **5. 2. Travel and Accommodation**

**5. 2. 1.** Each player gets her travel expenses reimbursed (based on the standard economy class or comparable tariffs).

**5. 2. 2.** Each player is provided with a free single room with full board in the official hotel for the whole duration of the event.

**5. 2. 3.** For security and administrative reasons, all participants are expected to stay in the officially designated hotel.

## **5. 3. Playing venue**

**5. 3. 1.** GSC shall ensure the playing hall and its environs meet the requirements of the FIDE Regulations for the organization of Top-level Tournaments (FIDE Handbook C.01).

**5. 3. 2.** The playing venue shall be decorated with the FIDE flag, the IOC flag, the flags of the host and the participating federations.

**5. 3. 3.** The Organizer provides, free of charge, coffee, tea and soft drinks for the players, principals, VIPs and accredited media.

## **5. 4. Schedule**

Arrivals & Opening Ceremony:	1 day
Round 1:	1 day
Round 2:	1 day
Round 3:	1 day
Round 4:	1 day
Round 5:	1 day
Round 6:	1 day
Free day:	1 day
Round 7:	1 day
Round 8:	1 day
Round 9:	1 day
Round 10:	1 day
Round 11 & Closing ceremony:	1 day
Departures:	1 day
 TOTAL:	 14 days

The playing schedule can be changed only upon approval of the FIDE President.

## **5. 5. Pairings and draw of colors**

**5. 5. 1.** The draw for pairings and colors is conducted in the FIDE Secretariat, four (4) weeks before the start of the tournament.

**5. 5. 2.** Players from the same federation play each other in round 1, if there two (2) players from the same federation and in rounds 1, 2, 3, if there are up to four (4) players from the same federation.

**5. 5. 3.** If a player withdraws after completing 50% or more of the games, the rest of her games are lost by default. In case a player completes less than 50%, all her results are annulled.

**5. 5. 4.** No postponement of any game is allowed.

## **5. 6. Time control**

**5. 6. 1.** The games are played using the electronic clocks and boards approved by FIDE.

**5. 6. 2.** The time control for each game is: 90 minutes for the first 40 moves, followed by 30 minutes for the rest of the game with an increment of 30 seconds per move starting from move 1.

### **5. 7. Draw by mutual agreement**

The players cannot draw a game by agreement before black's 30<sup>th</sup> move. A claim for a draw before black's 30<sup>th</sup> move is permitted only through the Chief Arbiter (or his Deputy) in case of threefold repetition.

### **5. 8. Conditions of victory**

**5. 8. 1.** The player with the most points (1 point for each win, half a point for each draw, 0 for each loss) is declared the winner of the tournament. A tie is broken according to article 5. 8. 2. below.

#### **5. 8. 2. Tie-breaks**

If the top two (2) or more players score the same number of points, the tie is to be decided by the following criteria, in order of priority:

- a) The results of the games between the players involved in the tie.
- b) The number of wins in the tournament of every player involved in the tie.
- c) Sonneborn - Berger System.

### **5. 9. Prizes and WGP points**

**5. 9. 1.** The minimum prize fund amounts to 80,000 (eighty thousand) euros. The amount is net and cleared of any local taxes.

<b>PLACE</b>	<b>PRIZE (euros)</b>	<b>WGP POINTS</b>
1 <sup>st</sup>	15,000	160 points
2 <sup>nd</sup>	12,000	130 points
3 <sup>rd</sup>	10,000	110 points
4 <sup>th</sup>	8,000	90 points
5 <sup>th</sup>	6,750	80 points
6 <sup>th</sup>	5,750	70 points
7 <sup>th</sup>	5,000	60 points
8 <sup>th</sup>	4,500	50 points
9 <sup>th</sup>	4,000	40 points
10 <sup>th</sup>	3,500	30 points
11 <sup>th</sup>	3,000	20 points
12 <sup>th</sup>	2,500	10 points
<b>Total</b>	<b>80,000</b>	<b>850 points</b>

All prize money and WGP points are divided equally among the players with the same score.

**5. 9. 2.** The prize money are paid by direct banker's order drawn in euros. Within a week after completion of the event FIDE transfers players' prize money to a country of her choice.

**5. 9. 3.** If a player withdraws after the start of the tournament, FIDE decides upon paying out her prize money depending on particular circumstances (as a rule, proportional to a number of games completed provided there has been a satisfactory cause for a withdrawal).

**5. 9. 4.** Although FIDE endeavors to sign an agreement with the Organizer stating that the prize funds are net and free of all local taxes, FIDE is not responsible for any national local tax deducted from the prize money. FIDE gives all necessary assistance to the players if the Organizer acts to the contrary.

**5. 9. 5.** Contribution from the Organizer towards the accumulated prize fund for the final standings of WGP Series is twenty thousand (20,000) euros.

#### **5. 10. Playing Conditions**

**5. 10. 1.** The anti-cheating measures are applied according to the FIDE anti-cheating regulations for the top official events. The organizer covers all the related costs up to five thousand (5,000) euros.

**5. 10. 2.** The anti-doping test procedure is to be regulated by the contract between FIDE and the Organizer.

**5. 10. 3.** Except with the permission of the Chief Arbiter, only the players, the principals and steward (-ess)s are allowed in a playing area. A player may communicate with an arbiter or a steward.

**5. 10. 4.** The players are not permitted to bring into a playing area telephone, technical and other equipment extraneous to play, which may in any way disturb or upset the opponent. The Chief Arbiter shall decide what constitutes extraneous equipment disturbing the opponent.

**5. 10. 5.** During the playing session, a player may leave a playing area only with the permission of the Chief Arbiter and only if she is accompanied by one of the arbiters.

#### **5. 11. Score sheets**

**5. 11. 1.** The Organizer provide score sheets according to the specifications provided by GSC.

**5. 11. 2.** At the end of each game the players' original score sheets is to be given to the Chief Arbiter, who submits them to FIDE. Refusal of either player to sign the score sheets shall be penalized according to Article 12.9 of the Laws of Chess (see Annex 1). After the players have signed the score sheets, the Arbiter countersigns to confirm the results.

#### **5. 12. Players conduct**

**5. 12. 1.** The players are required to attend the Technical Meeting on the day of the Opening Ceremony at a time to be decided by the Chief Arbiter and the Organizer. If necessary, the Chief Arbiter may call other Technical Meetings.

**5. 12. 2.** The players are required to be present at all official events approved by GSC including official receptions, the opening and the closing ceremonies.

**5. 12. 3.** The players are expected to co-operate reasonably with the media. General interviews with them have to be arranged through the FIDE Press Officer.

**5. 12. 4.** The players are required to make themselves available for post-game press conferences, of not more than 20 minutes duration, immediately after the game.

**5. 12. 5.** The top three winners are obliged to attend the final press conference after the event has ended and to provide an exclusive interview for the WGP Tournament's website, if requested by the FIDE Press Officer.

**3. 12. 6.** The players are requested to note the requirements of FIDE Regulations C.01 (Article 8.1) in respect of their dignified appearance at all times during the event.

**5. 12. 7.** If a player fails to appear at the Technical Meeting, the Opening or the Closing Ceremonies or any approved function of the Tournament such as official receptions, press conferences or interviews, or conducts herself in a manner contrary to the spirit of sportsmanship or the FIDE Code of Ethics, she shall be penalized as follows: 5% of her prize money shall be forfeited to the Organizer and a further 5% to FIDE for each breach. In cases of serious misconduct the player may be disqualified from the event.

#### **5. 13. Principals**

The Principals are:

- a) FIDE President

- b) FIDE Deputy President or FIDE Director General;
- c) 2 Arbiters;
- d) FIDE Press Officer;
- e) Representative of FIDE Medical Commission;
- f) GSC member.

#### **5. 14. Arbiters**

**5. 14. 1.** The two (2) arbiters are nominated by FIDE. No arbiter may belong to the same federation as any of the players.

**5. 14. 2.** During play either the Chief Arbiter or his Deputy must be present in a playing area.

**5. 14. 3** Within one (1) week after the end of the event the Chief Arbiter submits a report in English to GSC. The report contains the result of each individual game as well as the final standings and also a general description of the course of the event. If there were any difficulties, conflicts or incidents, they shall be described together with the measures taken to deal with them. The report shall be supplemented by adding two copies of the bulletins and the scoresheets of the games.

**5. 14. 4.** The Chief Arbiter may issue additional written regulations, in consultation with GSC, to inform the exact playing hours and take care of other details not covered by these regulations.

#### **5. 15. Appeals Committee**

**5. 15. 1.** The Chairman, the two (2) other members and the two (2) reserve members of the Appeals Committee are to be chosen from the participating players, all from different Federations.

**5. 15. 2.** None of the three (3) members of the Appeals Committee sits in judgment in a dispute involving herself. In this case, such a member is substituted by the first reserve member.

**5. 15. 3.** None of the three (3) members of the Appeals Committee sits in judgment in a dispute involving a player from her Federation (except where the dispute is between two (2) players from her Federation). In this case, such a member is substituted by the first reserve member.

**5. 15. 4.** All protests must be submitted in writing to the Appeals Committee not more than two (2) hours after the relevant playing session, or the particular infringement complained against.

**5. 15. 5.** Each protest must be accompanied by a deposit fee of five hundred (500) euros or the equivalent in local currency. If the protest is accepted, the fee shall be returned. If the protest is rejected, the fee may be forfeited to FIDE.

**5. 15. 6.** The Appeals Committee may decide on the following matters:

- a) an appeal against a decision by an arbiter,
- b) a protest against a player's behavior,
- f) all other matters which the Committee considers important.

**5. 15. 7.** The Appeals Committee endeavors to find binding solutions that are within the true spirit of the FIDE motto Gens Una Sumus.

**5. 15. 8.** The Appeals Committee endeavors to make a decision within two (2) hours after submission of a protest.

**5. 15. 9.** The written decision of the Appeals Committee arising from any dispute in respect of these regulations is final.

**5. 15. 10.** Within one (1) week after the end of the event, the Chairman of the Appeals Committee submits a report in English to GSC.

#### **5. 16. FIDE Press Officer**

**5. 16. 1.** The organizer is responsible for managing, updating and reviewing the official web domain which is used for the event: [wgp.xxxx2019.fide.com](http://wgp.xxxx2019.fide.com) where xxxx refers to the city where the event is being held. All content is reviewed and approved by the FIDE Press Officer. All live images, live broadcasting (Internet TV) pictures and all the other content for the full event details are carried on the official domain. The organizer shall not develop any other website. In cases of conflicting information and press statements, the views expressed by the Press Officer shall be the authentic version.

**5. 16. 2.** All activities of both FIDE and the Organizer shall identify FIDE being the Governing Body of WGP Tournament. The organizer shall warrant that the official domain for the event is managed in a professional way and furthermore that it is capable of handling the traffic and publicity that is required for such events. Statistics of traffic and full reports on web performance are provided by the FIDE Press Officer to both GSC and the Organizer.

**5. 16. 3.** The Organizer shall co-operate with the Press Officer concerning the accreditation and hospitality for journalists and media and the facilities available at the Press Centre.

**5. 16. 4.** The Press Officer is a member of the panel at Press Conferences conducted during the event.

### **5. 17. Photography and Television**

**5. 17. 1.** Only photographers and camera crew expressly authorized by the Press Officer may work in the playing venue.

**5. 17. 2.** Flash may be used only during the first five (5) minutes of play.

**5. 17. 3.** Television cameras must be unobtrusive and may only be used if the Chief Arbiter deems their use to be unobtrusive.

### **5. 18. Ceremonies**

**5. 18. 1.** The Opening Ceremony takes place on the day prior to the first round.

**5. 18. 2.** The program of the Opening Ceremony shall be approved by GSC. Cultural program and speeches totaling up to 60 minutes are usually welcome. FIDE Anthem and the Anthem of the hosting country shall be played.

**5. 18. 3.** The Closing Ceremony takes place on the day of the last round. FIDE trophy for the winner and FIDE medals (gold, silver, bronze) for the top three winners of the tournament are provided by the Organizer. The trophy and the medals are to be approved by GSC. The FIDE Anthem, the Anthem of the winner's country and the Anthem of the hosting country shall be played.

## **6. Selection of the Organizers for WGP Tournaments**

**6. 1.** The selection process for the Organizers starts in December 2018.

**6. 2.** Any federation member of FIDE or any organizer approved by the national federation may apply for organization of WGP Tournament.

**6. 3.** Each application should contain the following:

- a) Proposed exact place and dates of the event.
- b) Proposed tournament venue.
- c) Proposed prize fund - minimum one hundred thousand (100,000) euros net of any applicable local taxes, which includes eighty thousand (80,000) euros for WGP Tournament and twenty thousand (20,000) euros for the accumulated prize fund of WGP Series.
- d) Proposed contribution to FIDE – minimum twenty thousand (20,000) euros net of any applicable local taxes.
- e) Commitment to cover all financial obligations to FIDE, including all the stipends.
- f) Commitment to cover all organizational costs, in accordance with the current regulations.
- g) Invitation for at least one member of GSC to inspect the proposed venue and examine the other conditions, with all travel and hotel expenses paid by the applicant from the non-refundable fee. (see 6. 4.).
- h) Applicant's name, signature and authentication
- i) Letters of support from the national federation and relevant local authorities.

**6. 4.** Each applicant shall pay a non-refundable fee of two thousand (2,000) euros.

**6. 5.** Upon FIDE's selection of the Organizer of the event, a contract is to be signed between FIDE and the Organizer regarding all financial and commercial aspects of the event. The Organizer is required to present all necessary bank guaranties for the whole amount of the prize fund and all expenses related to the event.

**6. 6.** GSC shall advise and help the Organizer on protocol, budget, infrastructure, media, commentary, bulletin and other technical issues.

## **7. Financial issues related to WGP Tournament**

**7. 1.** Before the end of each WGP Tournament, FIDE shall be reimbursed for its direct expenses incurred in the organization. This shall be a fixed sum agreed in the contract between the Organizer and GSC. This sum includes pre-expenses (inspections), stipends, traveling expenses for the Principals and other expenses mentioned in the contract.

### **7. 2. Stipends**

The stipends to be paid to the Principals of WGP Tournament by the Organizer are (in euros):

Chief Arbiter:	3,000
Deputy Chief Arbiter:	2,000
FIDE Press Officer:	2,500

### **7. 3. Travel Expenses of the FIDE Principals**

The FIDE President has the right to business class travel by air, sea or rail, at the Organizer's expense. The FIDE Deputy President / FIDE Director General has the right to business class travel by air, sea or rail, at the Organizer's expense. All other Principals shall be provided with transport by air, sea or rail or, if they prefer, any other mode of transport that is not more expensive to the Organizer than economy air travel or business class if traveling from another continent.

### **7. 4. Accommodation of the FIDE Principals**

For the FIDE President a suite in a 4-5-star hotel should be provided and for the FIDE Deputy President / FIDE Director General one junior suite in the same hotel. For each Principal - a double room in the same hotel. Extra expenses only for the FIDE President are covered by the Organizer.

### **7. 5. Food and drinks.**

Provision for food and drinks shall be provided for all the Principals. This shall be provided by a specified allowance in local currency per day or by the provision of all meals in the restaurant of the hotel. The nature and amount shall be agreed between the Organizer and GSC.

### **7. 6. Local transportation.**

Transfer from and to the airport is to be provided by the Organizer, if necessary. For the FIDE President, a chauffeur-driven car. For the other Principals, a number of cars shall be made available; their use will depend on the position of the hotels, playing hall and media center. Alternatively, a daily allowance in local currency may be provided, the amount to be agreed between the Organizer and GSC. Local transport shall also be provided for players to official functions if necessary.

### **7. 7. Personnel**

The Organizer provides sufficient personnel to assist in the playing hall, press room, VIP room, and at ceremonies according to the agreement made with GSC.

## **8. Commercial issues**

**8. 1.** FIDE, or its appointed commercial agency, retains all commercial and media rights of WGP Tournaments, including internet. The right as described here can be granted by FIDE to the Organizer.

**8. 2.** The radio and television rights, including photo, video and film rights, shall belong to FIDE or its appointed agency. The right as described here can be granted by FIDE to the Organizer.

**8. 3.** FIDE has the exclusive rights for live games transmission on Internet. FIDE provides to the Organizer the signal for online game display in the different function rooms as agreed between the parties. This right as described here can be granted by FIDE to the Organizer.

**8. 4.** FIDE has the right to enter into advertisement agreements either with the Organizer or Sponsors of the event requiring players to wear attire with the branding of sponsors. Players shall not wear, use or display any apparel, footwear, accessory or other item, including but not limited to any piece of attire or any article that is of an accessory nature (*e.g.* bag, eyewear, arm bands, gloves, socks, charms, beverage bottles etc.), bearing an identification of or advertising or otherwise promoting the players' sponsors, without prior written permission by FIDE or FIDE's commercial agency.

**8. 5.** The income provided by WGP Tournament through admission charges goes to the Organizer.

**8. 6.** The Organizer shall draw up a budget as detailed as possible. This shall be subject to approval of GSC.

**8. 7.** No proposed sponsor shall be in conflict with the regulations of the International Olympic Committee.

**8. 8.** The FIDE logo and the head of the corporate logo are displayed below:



The FIDE logo shall be displayed in a dark blue color on a white background. The text describing any event must not be larger than twice the size of the word FIDE reproduced in the logo.

**8. 9.** The event title of the tournament is represented below. The corporate logo should include the above on top and the text in any kind of printed or electronic media must not be larger than twice the size of the word FIDE reproduced in the logo.



**WOMEN'S GRAND PRIX 2019-2020**

# **ANNEX 1**

## **WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP TECHNICAL REGULATIONS (FIDE Laws of Chess)**

The FIDE Laws of Chess are Annex 1, as valid since 1 January 2018 and published on the FIDE website:

<http://www.fide.com/component/handbook/?id=208&view=article>