



**39th NATIONAL UNDER - 13 OPEN
&
39th NATIONAL UNDER - 13 GIRLS
CHESS CHAMPIONSHIPS – 2026**

**AICF Event Code:
OPEN: 489376/PY/2026
&
GIRLS: 489377/PY/2026**

Date: 03rd to 09th September 2026

Organised by

Pondicherry Chess Association

On Behalf of

All India Chess Federation

Supported by

Ministry of Youth Affairs & Sports, Government of India

Venue:

**Amalorpavam Higher
Secondary School
Arumai Primary Building
Vanarapet
Pondicherry - 605001**

Total Prize Fund: Rs. 8,00,000/-

1. Tournament Schedule:

Particulars	Date	Time
Arrival	03-Sep.-2026	0700 hrs
Technical Meeting	03-Sep.-2026	1100 hrs
Inauguration	03-Sep.-2026	1130 hrs
Round – 1	03-Sep.-2026	1600 hrs
Round – 2	04-Sep.-2026	1000 hrs
Round – 3	04-Sep.-2026	1600 hrs
Round – 4	05-Sep.-2026	1000 hrs
Round – 5	05-Sep.-2026	1600 hrs
Round – 6	06-Sep.-2026	1000 hrs
Round – 7	07-Sep.-2026	1000 hrs
Round – 8	07-Sep.-2026	1600 hrs
Round – 9	08-Sep.-2026	1000 hrs
Round – 10	08-Sep.-2026	1600 hrs
Round – 11	09-Sep.-2026	0930 hrs
Prize Distribution	09-Sep.-2026	1500 hrs
Departure	09-Sep.-2026	1900 hrs

2. Age Limit: Players should be born on or after 01.01.2013

3. Age Proof: Each participant must produce a valid certificate to prove his/her age. **Certificates from School will not be accepted.** Certificates should preferably be from the Panchayat, Municipality or Corporation obtained soon after birth. Players without date of birth certificates will not be allowed to participate.

The date of birth certificates registered within one year of the birth of the player alone will be recognized and allowed to participate. No state association shall recommend any player who doesn't come under the above criteria.

However, player/state can appeal to AICF in this regard as per the notification published at <https://aicf.in/public-notice-dob-issue/> with undertaking and supporting documents.

If any doubt arises about the claimed age of a player, the Tournament Committee has the right to refer the player during the championship for a due evaluation of age by competent medical experts. A player if declared over-age by such experts shall not continue in the championship and the matter shall be reported to AICF. Protest about the age of players may be made to the Chief Arbiter in writing along with a fee of Rs.5000/- per player. This will not be refunded. No protest about over age of a player will be entertained after second round of the championship.

Only the Coach or Manager deputed by the participating state chess association can lodge such protests. The Tournament Committee has the right to decide the day, time and place for such medical evaluation of age. AICF/Organizers will have the right to refer any player to the medical evaluation of age at any time during the Championship. Players refusing to take the test as decided by the Tournament Committee shall be deemed to have failed the test and shall be disqualified from the Championship.

4. Prizes

The cash prizes will be awarded to 20 players in each category amounting to Rs.4,00,000/- as given below:

Prizes	Open	Girls
1	80,000	80,000
2	60,000	60,000
3	48,000	48,000
4	35,000	35,000
5	28,000	28,000
6	25,000	25,000
7	22,000	22,000
8	18,000	18,000
9	14,000	14,000
10	10,000	10,000
11 to 20	6,000 each	6,000 each

5. Eligibility: Subject to age limit, following players can participate:

Two players in each category from every affiliated State Association of AICF. If any Association fails to send its quota, the vacancies so caused will not be filled.

Top four players from 2026 National under 13 Open & Girls Chess Championships (held in 2025) are eligible to participate as seeded players in their respective categories subject to age stipulation.

World Champion in any over the board category from the year 2025 subject to age to age stipulation.

2025 world no. 2 & 3 under 10 and Under 12 categories

2025 Asian Under - 12 top 3 rankers

2025 Asian Under - 10 champion.

The winner and runner-up of 2025 National U-13 Girls Championship is eligible to play in the open section subject to age stipulation.

The winner of 2025 National U-11 Girls Championship is eligible to play in the open section.

Current over the Board National Champion in any higher category subject to age stipulation

Any other player who remits the prescribed special entry fee of Rs.6,250/-.Such entries should come through the respective affiliated State Association

Host Pondicherry Chess Association is entitled to fill two additional players in each category.

The AICF Secretary has a discretionary seat in each category in this Championship

Two players in each category approved by AICF will be permitted from areas where no State Association exists.

If the number of participants at the start of the championship is an odd number in a category, the host association can add one entry to make it even.

Only Indian nationals are eligible to participate in the championships.

In addition to the above, three additional entries from the state which won `Gold, two entries from the State which won the Silver and one additional entry from the State which won the Bronze in the National Under-13 Chess Championships 2025 (held in 2025) shall be accepted. All **GMs/IMs** are seeded in the Open Section and all **WGMs/WIMs** are seeded in the Girls Section subject to age stipulation.

6. Dress Code: As per AICF regulations on dress code for players participating in all the National championships, all State Associations should send their players including special/donor entry players with proper uniform (as regards special/donor entry players, the respective state chess associations may collect the cost of the uniform from the players). Players should at least wear uniform T Shirts/formal shirts (same colour and brand with the name of the State printed prominently at the back and the state chess emblem in the front left side). The name/logo of the sponsors can be permitted. Girls/Women have also to be given appropriate uniform. The above rule will also be applicable to Special units. Players without proper uniform will not be permitted to take part in the championship. This will be strictly enforced.

7. Entries/Entry Fee: All entries including special entries should come through the concerned State Association. The entry form should be sent together with attested copy of original date of birth certificate (Birth Certificates from Panchayat/Municipality/Corporation only accepted).

8. Entry Fee Structure:

Ordinary entry: Rs.1250/- (Rupees one thousand two hundred and fifty only)
Special Entry: Rs. 6250 (Rupees six thousand two hundred and fifty only)

There will be a 50% concession in the entry fee for participants from North Eastern States and Andaman & Nicobar Islands.

Entry fee will be accepted strictly online through: <https://prs.aicf.in/entry>. **For clarification and guidance regarding submission of entries, please contact:** aicfnationalentries@gmail.com

9. Late fee: Please note that the entry fee structure is valid till 20th August 2026. Thereafter, a late fee of Rs.250/- per player will be levied. No entry will be entertained after 26th August 2026 (up to 17:00 hrs.).

10. System of Play: The Championship will be played under FIDE's Laws of Chess and the Swiss system. A total of eleven rounds shall be played.

Players from the same state shall not be paired against each other in the last round. However, they may be paired if there is no compatible opponent with the same point group or score group with a maximum difference of 1 point. It is applicable only for the top 50% score of the penultimate round.

11. Default Time: Default time for arriving to the chessboard is 15 minutes.

12. Time Control: The rate of play shall be 90 minutes with an increment of 30 seconds per move from move number one.

13. Chess Clocks: Each participating State Chess Association must provide at least one clock in working order for every two players entered into the Championship.

14. Tie Break: Following is the order of tie-breaks:

- (a) Buchholz Cut1
- (b) Buchholz
- (c) Sonneborn Berger
- (d) Direct encounter
- (e) The greater number of wins (forfeit included)
- (f) The greater number of wins by black

In case of tie, cash prizes will not be shared.

15. Draw Agreement: Players shall not agree for a draw without the consent of the arbiter, before each player makes 30 moves.

16. Protest: Protest, if any, against the decision of the Chief Arbiter shall be made in writing with a protest fee of Rs. 3000/- (Rs. Three thousand only) within 30 minutes of the occurrence of the incident. The protest fee will be refunded if the appeal is upheld.

17. Appeals Committee: Before the commencement of the tournament, a five-member appeals committee shall be formed by the AICF/organizers. All the members and reserves shall be from different states. No member of the Committee can vote on a dispute in which a player from his own State is involved and, in such case(s), the reserve member(s) shall take his place in the committee.

18. Tournament Committee: The organizers will form a tournament committee for the smooth conduct of the National Championship.

19. Interpretation: For interpretation of the rule(s) and deciding any point not covered by the above rules of the tournament, the decision of the Tournament Committee shall be final and binding on all. The Tournament Committee has every right to make any addition or amendment to these rules, without notice. However, such changes/ or inclusion will be subject to AICF clearance. Such changes will, however, be displayed in the tournament hall.

20. Withdrawal: If any player withdraws from the last two rounds in any National Championship on medical grounds, he/she should undergo treatment by a doctor recommended and supervised by the tournament committee.

21. Disqualification: No participant will leave the venue before the Prize Distribution function without the permission of the Chief Arbiter. The participants disregarding this rule will be suspended for one year.

22. Registration of Players with AICF: All participants in the National Championship shall be registered with AICF for the year (from April 1, 2026) 2026-2027 before the registration on AICF Online portal for the entries. Online AICF registration can be done at the website www.prs.aicf.in/players

23. Arrears: All arrears of affiliation fee/tournament fee including those of current year must be cleared by the affiliated Association at the time of submitting the entries; otherwise, the entries are liable to be rejected.

24. Electronic Devices: All electronic items including wrist watches (all type of watches) are not allowed in the tournament hall. Those who are having mobile phones or wearing watches during their play will be declared lost .

25. Accommodation: Free dormitory accommodation will be provided to all the selected and seeded players and one Manager from each state. For special entries and accompanying persons they will have to make their own arrangement for stay.

26. Boarding: A lump sum of Rs.1500/- (Rupees one thousand five hundred only) will be paid by the organizers towards the boarding expenses, only to the affiliated State Associations seeded and selected players who play this championship under normal entry

General Instruction

- 1. Parents and accompanying persons are not allowed inside the tournament hall at all times.**
- 2. Organizers take all the measures for safe championship environment. However, in case any untoward situation arises, the players will not ask damages from Organizers/All India Chess Federation.**
- 3. Due to any unforeseen scenario, if the event needs to be cancelled, then AICF's obligation is limited to refunding the entry fee paid by the players.**
- 4. By enrolling for the events, the players are abiding by all the terms and conditions of the championship for participation.**
- 5.**

For Assistance

Mr. Er. G. SANKAR, B.Tech., President, PSCA -9042000066

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