2nd International Chess Tournament 2027 in Kuwait

10th to 20th January 2027

About the Tournament

The Kuwait Chess Federation is pleased to announce the 2nd Kuwait International Chess Tournament 2027, which will be held from 10 to 20 January 2027, featuring the participation of distinguished players from around the world.

Tournament Events

1.1 Masters: Open to all FIDE rated players with standard rating of 1900 ELO and above (exception for all Kuwaiti and GCC players). 9 Rounds, Swiss System. Time control: 90 minutes for the first 40 moves, followed by 30 minutes for the rest of the game, with an addition of 30 seconds per move starting from move one.

1.2 Challengers: Open to all players with a FIDE ID. 9 Rounds, Swiss System. Time control: 60 minutes plus 30 seconds increment from the first move.

1.3 Rapid: Open to all players with a FIDE ID. 9 Rounds. Time control: 10 minutes plus 3 seconds increment from the first move.

1.4 Blitz: Open to all players with a FIDE ID. 9 Rounds. Time control: 3 minutes plus 2 seconds increment from the first move.

2. Events Schedule

Date	Masters	Challengers	Blitz	Rapid
Sunday 10 January	**Arrival (After 12:00 PM)**			
Monday 11 January	**Opening Ceremony (at 5:30 PM)**			
	R1 06:30 P.M.	R1 06:30 P.M.		
Tuesday 12 January	R2 05:30 P.M.	R2 05:30 P.M.		
Wednesday 13 January	R3 05:30 P.M.	R3 05:30 P.M.		
Thursday 14 January	R4 05:30 P.M.	R4 05:30 P.M.		
Friday 15 January			Starts at 11:00 A.M.	Starts at 04:00 P.M.
Saturday 16 January	R5 05:30 P.M.	R5 05:30 P.M.		
Sunday 17 January	R6 05:30 P.M.	R6 05:30 P.M.		
Monday 18 January	R7 05:30 P.M.	R7 05:30 P.M.		
Tuesday 19 January	R8 05:30 P.M.	R8 05:30 P.M.		
Wednesday 20 January	R9 02:00 P.M.	R9 02:00 P.M.	Closing ceremony 08:00 PM	
Thursday 21 January	**Departure (before 12:00 PM)**			

Note: The Technical Meeting will be held at 3:00 p.m. on Monday, 11 January.

3. Prizes

3.1 Masters (Total: $ 11,000.00)

Place	Prize (USD)
1st	$ 2,500.00
2nd	$ 2,000.00
3rd	$ 1,500.00
4th	$ 1,000.00
5th	$ 800.00
6th	$ 600.00
7th	$ 500.00
8th	$ 400.00
9th	$ 300.00
10th	$ 200.00
Best Kuwaiti Player	$ 200.00
First-female	$ 500.00
Second-female	$ 300.00
Third-female	$ 200.00

3.2 Challengers (Total: $ 2,000.00)

Place	Prize (USD)
1st	$ 600.00
2nd	$ 300.00
3rd	$ 200.00
Best Kuwaiti Player	$ 150.00
1st Juniors (U16)	$ 150.00
2nd Juniors (U16)	$ 100.00
1st Juniors (U12)	$ 150.00
2nd Juniors (U12)	$ 100.00
First-female	$ 150.00
Second-female	$ 100.00

3.3 Rapid (Total: $ 1,000.00)

Place	Prize (USD)
1st	$ 250.00
2nd	$ 200.00
3rd	$ 150.00
1st KUW	$ 100.00
1st Juniors (U16)	$ 100.00
2nd Juniors (U16)	$ 100.00
Best Female overall	$ 100.00

3.4Blitz (Total: $ 1,000.00)

Place	Prize (USD)
1st	$ 250.00
2nd	$ 200.00
3rd	$ 150.00
1st KUW	$ 100.00
1st Juniors (U16)	$ 100.00
2nd Juniors (U16)	$ 100.00
Best Female overall	$ 100.00

The Prizes will be awarded based on Tie Break and will not be shared. A player cannot be awarded more than one prize in a tournament, and he/she will be awarded the highest prize only.

4. Tie Breaks

1. Direct Encounter
2. Buchholz
3. Sonneborn Berger (SB)
4. Greater Number of Victories with Black

5. Registration

5.1 Registration is accepted online via the following link: www.kmsa-kw.com.

5.2. The deadline for registration of participants whose participation requires obtaining an entry visa to the State of Kuwait is 15 November 2026.

5.3. Registration shall be confirmed upon payment of the participation fees and any related payments.

5.4. The registration of any player who does not hold a FIDE Number is prohibited.

5.5. All participating players and accompanying persons shall fully comply with the tournament regulations and the rules and instructions of the Organizing Committee.

5.6. The Organizing Committee reserves the right to accept or reject the registration of any participant in accordance with the regulations of the International Chess Federation (FIDE) and the laws of the State of Kuwait.

Tournament	Entry Fee
Masters (Min 1700)	* Players rated 2600 and above: Exempt from registration fees * Players rated 2400–2599: USD 50 * Players rated 2200–2399: USD 75 * Players rated 2000–2199: USD 100 * Players rated below 2000: USD 150 *** Kuwaiti players: KWD 30**
Challengers (Max 1900)	$ 100.00 *** Kuwaiti players: KWD 30**
Rapid	$ 50.00
Blitz	$ 50.00

6. General Rules, Regulations & Useful Information

6.1 Default Time: A player shall lose the game if they arrive at the chessboard more than 30 minutes after the scheduled start time of the round (Master, Challenge, and Women's tournaments). In the Rapid and Blitz tournaments, the default time shall be until the player's clock runs out.

6.2 Smoking is forbidden in the playing hall.

6.3 After each round, players must submit the original score sheets, signed by both players, to the arbiter.

6.4 Players who have finished their games shall be considered spectators and are not allowed to stay in the playing area.

6.5 Players are instructed not to bring mobile phones or any other electronic devices, even if switched off, into the playing hall. Bringing any such device into the hall will result in forfeiture of the game.

6.6 The Arbiter may require players to allow their clothes, bags, or other items to be inspected in private. The Arbiter or an authorized person of the same gender as the player shall conduct the inspection. Refusal to cooperate will result in measures under Article
12.9 of the Laws of Chess.

6.7 Random checks of players may be carried out before and after every game.

6.8 Fair play measures will be taken according to the FIDE Anti-Cheating Regulations.

6.9 Players shall take no action that brings the game of chess into disrepute.

6.10 Players are obliged to obey the tournament regulations.

6.11 Photos may only be taken with flash during the first 10 minutes of each round. After that, only accredited media representatives are allowed to film or photograph in the playing hall, without flash.

6.12 Only players, arbiters, officials, and organizers shall be allowed in the actual playing arena.

6.13 A player who is absent for two rounds shall be withdrawn from the tournament.

6.14 The weather in Kuwait in January usually ranges between 12°C and 19°C.

6.15 Power plugs and sockets (outlets) of Type C and Type G are used in Kuwait.

6.16 The standard voltage is 240V at a frequency of 50Hz.

7. Procedure of Appeals

In the event of an appeal against a decision made by the Chief Arbiter or any Deputy Arbiter, the appeal must be submitted in writing to the Chairperson of the Appeals Committee within one (1) hour after the end of the playing session, accompanied by an appeal fee of USD 100.

If the appeal is upheld and the original decision is overturned, the appeal fee shall be refunded to the appellant. Otherwise, the fee shall be retained by the Tournament Organizing Committee.

The Appeals Committee shall consist of either three (3) members (one Chairperson and two members) or five (5) members (one Chairperson and four members), who shall be elected during the Technical Meeting.

8. Official Hotel & Venue

Official Hotel	Millennium Central Downtown Hotel (4-Star)
Playing Venue	Al Shamiya Hall (Grand Hall), Millennium Hotel
Address	Abdullah Al Ahmad Street, Dasman, Kuwait

Room Rates:

Room Type	Rate per Night
Single Room (including 3 meals)	KWD 40
Double Room (including 3 meals)	KWD 50

Hotel Facilities and Services



- Complimentary access to the fitness center, steam room, and health club.
- Complimentary use of the indoor swimming pool.
- A fruit basket in every room.
- Three pieces of laundry per day.
- Complimentary Wi-Fi throughout the hotel and in all guest rooms.
- Central air conditioning and heating with individual control switches.
- In-room amenities include a television, hairdryer, bathroom scale, iron and ironing board, and personal safe.
- Electrical outlets for shavers (110V and 220V) and 240V electrical supply.
- Complimentary in-room tea and coffee-making facilities in the designated refreshment corner.

9. Important Note for VISA

All title holders and foreign players are requested to send their queries regarding VISA assistance to the contacts below.

10. Contacts

Website: www.kmsa-kw.com

Email: kuwaitchessfed@kmsa-kw.com

Executive Manager :

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