



Fédération Ivoirienne Des Echecs

vivendi
2018 Cote d'Ivoire

Rapid & Blitz Invitational



24 - 30 July 2018
Abidjan, Cote d'Ivoire

Sponsored by Vivendi SA

The Fédération Ivoirienne des Echecs (FIDEC) and Kasparov Chess Foundation are pleased to announce the addition of a major tournament on the 2018 African Chess calendar.

The tournament has been made possible through the generous sponsorship of Vivendi SA, the French mass media conglomerate and main sponsor of the Paris Grand Chess Tour event.

It is organized by FIDEC in conjunction with the Kasparov Chess Foundation Francophone and the Kasparov Chess Foundation Africa and will be held from **Wednesday 25th July 2018** until **Sunday 29th July 2018**. The format is a 10 player Rapid & Blitz Invitational and the event will showcase some of the very best players from across the African continent.

Playing venue

All games will be played at Hotel Tiama (<http://www.hotel.tiama.ci/en/>), a 5-star hotel located in the heart of the business district of Abidjan in Cote d'Ivoire.

Playing Format

The tournament consists of both a Rapid chess component and a Blitz chess component with both formats played in line with the Grand Chess Tour time controls and standards.

The rapid chess portion of the event will be played as a 10-player single round-robin with a total of 9 games played over 3 days.

The blitz chess portion of the event will be played as a 10-player double round robin with 18 games played over the last 2 days.

All 10 players will compete across the 9 games of rapid chess and 18 games of blitz chess. The Rapid chess games counting 2-1-0 and the Blitz chess games counting 1-½-0.

Prizes will be awarded based on the combined standings of both the Rapid and the Blitz events.

Time controls

The time controls are as follows:

- Rapid games: 25 minutes per side with 10 seconds delay from move 1.
- Blitz games: 5 minutes per side with 3 seconds delay from move 1.

Schedule

The tournament schedule will be as follows:

Day	Time	Activity
Tuesday 24 th July	From 14.00	Player arrival and check in
Wednesday 25 th July	15.00 – 19.30	Rapid Chess – Day 1
Thursday 26 th July	15.00 – 19.30	Rapid Chess – Day 2
Friday 27 th July	15.00 – 19.30	Rapid Chess – Day 3
Saturday 28 th July	15.00 – 19.00	Blitz Chess – Day 1
Sunday 29 th July	15.00 – 19.00	Blitz Chess – Day 2
Sunday 29 th July	19.00 – 20.00	Prize Giving & Closing Ceremony
Monday 30 th July	Before 11:00	Check-out and departure from hotel

Prize Pool

The total prize pool is US\$ 15,000 which will be distributed as follows based on the combined standings of both the rapid and blitz events:

Position	Prize
1 st	\$ 5,000
2 nd	\$ 4,000
3 rd	\$ 3,000
4 th	\$ 2,000
5 th	\$ 1,000
Total	\$ 15,000

Participants

The field consists of 10 specially invited participants who are, without exception, amongst the very best from their respective countries. The field is unquestionably one of the strongest ever assembled for an African Rapid and Blitz tournament and will showcase the very best of Africa's talent.

The 10 players who will participate are:

#	Title	Name	Surname	Fed	URS	FIDE - Rapid	FIDE - Blitz
1	GM	Bassem	Amin	EGY	2680	2633	2695
2	GM	Mohamed	Haddouche	ALG	2495	2438	2428
3	IM	Mokliss	El Adnani	MAR	2450	2363	2458
4	IM	Fy	Rakotomaharo	MAD	2421	2190	2216
5	IM	Kenny	Solomon	RSA	2418	2382	2419
6	IM	Arthur	Ssegwany	UGA	2389	2356	2269
7	GM	Slim	Belkhodja	TUN	2386	2405	2397
8	IM	Andrew	Kayonde	ZAM	2385	2283	2308
9	IM	David	Silva	ANG	2319	2241	2293
10	IM	Oladapo	Adu	NIG	2270	2273	2287

Tournament Officials

IA Stephane Escafre from France will be the Chief Arbiter for the tournament while IA Lekan Adeyemi from Nigeria will be the deputy chief arbiter.

In addition, the well-known chess photojournalist, WGM Alina li Ami, will be attending the event as the official reporter to provide daily coverage of the event.

Live-Game Broadcasts

DGT Boards will be used for all rounds and the games from all 27 rounds will be broadcast live from the venue to all major international chess websites.

Queries

Any queries relating to the tournament should be directed to IO Graham Jurgensen (English) or to Dr Essoh Essis (French).

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