



MCF National Grand Prix Circuit 2026

OVERVIEW

The Malaysian Chess Federation (MCF) will continue its second edition of the National Grand Prix Circuit 2026 with 19 confirmed GP events for players to choose from to participate.

A slight change in the point system with 4 different circuit types to differentiate the GP points that will be distributed among the top 32 players of each circuit event – Platinum, Gold, Silver and Bronze.

The GP circuit will run from January 2026 until December 2026 with the GP Circuit Championship Final to be scheduled in January 2027. Total prize fund of RM 30,000 is maintained for the Championship final with the eventual champion to take home RM 10,000 for finishing at the top of the Knockout series.

GENERAL RULES AND REGULATIONS

1. Players Eligibility

- 1.1. Each player must have a valid MCF ID and FIDE ID to be eligible to collect GP points from the GP Circuit events that he/she has participated in. Players who participate in a GP event where the MCF is invalid WILL NOT EARN any GP points at the event he/she has played in.
- 1.2. While all the GP Circuit events are Open to everyone, only Malaysian players with a valid MCF ID will earn and qualify for the GP Circuit Championship Final.
- 1.3. There is no minimum or maximum number of GP Circuit events that a player needs to participate in to qualify for the GP Circuits Championship Final.
- 1.4. All registration and entries are accepted at the discretion of the Malaysian Chess Federation (MCF) – as the organizing body of the Circuit. The Malaysian Chess Federation reserves the rights to reject or cancel any application without providing any reasons whatsoever
- 1.5. Players must adhere to the Malaysian Chess Federation Code of Conduct and display the spirit of sportsmanship throughout the duration of the GP Circuit. Any misconduct including improper behavior or comments made – in public or otherwise, will result in the player being expelled and disqualified from competing further in the circuit. In such a situation, all the points earned by the player will be removed

2. GRAND PRIX CIRCUIT EVENTS FORMAT

2.1. Event Status

All events shall be both FIDE Rated and MCF Rated events

2.2. Pairing System

- For Swiss Manager Pairing System, the seeding of players shall be based on the latest Standard Rating List published by FIDE
- For Round Robin, the seeding of players shall be based on draw of lots before the start of Round 1

2.3. Number of Rounds

- Each GP Circuit Event will be played over a minimum of five (5) rounds when the number of players does not exceed a total of 16 participants.
- Where the number of players exceeds 16 participants, the organizer will deploy the most appropriate number of rounds in accordance with Swiss Pairing requirements with six (6) rounds being the minimum
- Where and when the number of participants is very low, the organizer may deploy a Single or Double Round Robin Pairing System to complete the GP Circuit Event

2.4. Time Control

As per FIDE ruling, all GP Circuit events will use Standard time control as follows:

- Where all players have a FIDE Rating of 1800 and below, the time control shall be 30 minutes + 30 seconds
- Where at least one player has a FIDE Rating between 2400 and 1800, the time control shall be 60 minutes + 30 seconds
- Where at least one player has a FIDE Rating of above 2400, the time control shall be 90 minutes + 30 seconds

2.5. Tiebreaker

- For a tournament using the Swiss Manager Pairing System, the tie break used shall be prioritized in the following order:
 - o Direct Encounter
 - o Greater number of wins (forfeit and byes counted)
 - o Buchholz Cut 1
 - o Buchholz
 - o Sonneborn Berger
- For a tournament using a Round Robin Pairing System, the tie break used shall be prioritized in the following order
 - o Direct Encounter
 - o Greater number of wins (forfeit and byes counted)
 - o Sonneborn Berger

2.6. Final Ranking

The final ranking of the players for each GP Circuit Event will be determined according to the number of points earned – 1 point for a win, 0.5 point for a draw, and 0 point for a loss

Only the top 32 players in each circuit will earn GP Points as per the table shown in Item 4.0 GRAND PRIX POINTS OFFERED

2.7. The Rights of the Organizer

Take note that each GP Event Organizer will incorporate additional Rules and Regulations which all players must also to adhere to.

3. GRAND PRIX CIRCUIT EVENTS TYPE

3.1. Grand Prix Events Type

For 2026, the Grand Prix Circuit will be classified as follows:

- Platinum Events Open National Level Events organized by MCF
- Gold Events Open Quarterly Events held by MCF or Open organized by Independent and/or Appointed Organizers
- Silver Events Monthly Events held by MCF at its MCF Office
- Bronze Events Open National/Non-National Events that are catered for players with a FIDE Rating of 1800 and below

NOTE: For Gold and Silver events, eligibility may be limited to players with a FIDE Rating of 2400 and below only

4. GRAND PRIX POINTS OFFERED

4.1. Grand Prix Points Offered

The total GP Points offered based on the events type is show below

| POSITION Standard Events | PLATINUM | GOLD | SILVER | BRONZE |
|-----------------------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|
| | NATIONAL | QUARTERLY | MONTHLY | U 1800 |
| Champion | 80 | 60 | 50 | 35 |
| Runner Up | 60 | 44 | 35 | 23 |
| 3rd | 50 | 36 | 30 | 18 |
| 4th | 42 | 30 | 26 | 16 |
| 5th | 34 | 26 | 22 | 14 |
| 6th | 28 | 22 | 18 | 12 |
| 7th | 22 | 19 | 16 | 11 |
| 8th | 18 | 16 | 14 | 10 |
| 9th | 16 | 14 | 12 | 9 |
| 10th | 14 | 12 | 10 | 8 |
| 11th | 12 | 10 | 8 | 7 |
| 12th | 10 | 8 | 7 | 6 |
| 13th | 8 | 7 | 6 | 5 |
| 14th | 7 | 6 | 5 | 4 |
| 15th | 6 | 5 | 4 | 3 |
| 16th | 5 | 4 | 3 | 2 |
| 17th to 32nd (Each) | 4 | 3 | 2 | 1 |
| POINTS OFFERED | 480 | 370 | 300 | 200 |

Only the top 32 players of each GP Circuit Event will earn points

The GP Points offered above are meant for individual achievements earned by a player in a GP Circuit Event. For Team Events where GP Points are also offered, players who are in the top 32 points earners / or players within the same bracket point earners, will share the collective points earned.

In such a situation, the points earned for each player shall be rounded up to the nearest round number

5. GRAND PRIX CIRCUIT EVENTS

5.1. MCF has outlined 19 GP Circuit Events to be contested and executed for 2026 which will run / has ran from January 2026 to December 2026

5.2. MCF may add more or remove events to the listing, as and when it deems appropriate. In such a situation, MCF will not be held responsible for any financial or points loss, including any personal or physical loss, sustained or experience, directly or indirectly, that may cause bodily harm either critical or fatal, by any player(s) or family members/accompanying persons before, during, after and throughout the duration of the event. This limitation also includes players who have made bookings or traveling arrangements to participate in the event as no reimbursement or compensation will be entertained.

5.3. The list of GP Circuit Events that have been planned for 2026 – as of February 2026, are as follows:

| NO | EVENT NAME | START | END | GP POINTS OFFERED | VENUE | STATUS |
|----|--|-----------|-----------|-------------------|------------------|-----------|
| 1 | MCF OFFICE U2400 Standard Event - Q1 / 2026 | 10-Jan-26 | 11-Jan-26 | GOLD SERIES | MCF OFFICE | COMPLETED |
| 2 | MALAYSIAN CHESS CHAMPIONSHIP 2026 (OPEN) | 1-Apr-26 | 5-Apr-26 | PLATINUM SERIES | UTeM MELAKA | |
| 3 | MALAYSIAN CHESS CHAMPIONSHIP 2026 (WOMEN) | 1-Apr-26 | 5-Apr-26 | PLATINUM SERIES | UTeM MELAKA | |
| 4 | NATIONAL CHALLENGER CHESS CHAMPIONSHIP 2026 (U1800) | 1-Apr-26 | 5-Apr-26 | BRONZE SERIES | UTeM MELAKA | |
| 5 | MCF OFFICE U2400 Standard Event - Monthly Series (April) | 11-Apr-26 | 12-Apr-26 | SILVER SERIES | MCF OFFICE | |
| 6 | MCF OFFICE U2400 Standard Event - O2 / 2026 | 25-Apr-26 | 26-Apr-26 | GOLD SERIES | MCF OFFICE | |
| 7 | NATIONAL OPEN TEAM CHESS CHAMPIONSHIP - PMX | 30-Apr-26 | 3-May-26 | PLATINUM SERIES | IYC KUALA LUMPUR | |
| 8 | MCF OFFICE U2400 Standard Event - Monthly Series (May) | 23-May-26 | 24-May-26 | SILVER SERIES | MCF OFFICE | |
| 9 | MCF OFFICE U2400 Standard Event - Monthly Series (June) | 13-Jun-26 | 14-Jun-26 | SILVER SERIES | MCF OFFICE | |
| 10 | MCF OFFICE U2400 Standard Event - O3 / 2026 | 11-Jul-26 | 12-Jul-26 | GOLD SERIES | MCF OFFICE | |
| 11 | MCF OFFICE U2400 Standard Event - Monthly Series (July) | 25-Jul-26 | 26-Jul-26 | SILVER SERIES | MCF OFFICE | |
| 12 | MCF OFFICE U2400 Standard Event - Monthly Series (Aug) | 22-Aug-26 | 23-Aug-26 | SILVER SERIES | MCF OFFICE | |
| 13 | MALAYSIAN AMATEUR CHESS CHAMPIONSHIP | 29-Aug-26 | 31-Aug-26 | BRONZE SERIES | PERLIS | |
| 14 | MCF OFFICE U2400 Standard Event - Monthly Series (Sep) | 19-Sep-26 | 20-Sep-26 | SILVER SERIES | MCF OFFICE | |
| 15 | MCF OFFICE U2400 Standard Event - Monthly Series (Oct) | 24-Oct-26 | 25-Oct-26 | SILVER SERIES | MCF OFFICE | |
| 16 | MCF OFFICE U2400 Standard Event - Monthly Series (Nov) | 7-Nov-26 | 8-Nov-26 | SILVER SERIES | MCF OFFICE | |
| 17 | MCF OFFICE U2400 Standard Event - O4 / 2026 | 28-Nov-26 | 29-Nov-26 | GOLD SERIES | MCF OFFICE | |
| 18 | MCF OFFICE U2400 Standard Event - Monthly Series (Dec) | 12-Dec-26 | 13-Dec-26 | SILVER SERIES | MCF OFFICE | |
| 19 | MCF OFFICE U2400 Standard Event - Year End | 26-Dec-26 | 27-Dec-26 | SILVER SERIES | MCF OFFICE | |

6. INVITATION TO ORGANIZERS TO JOIN MCF GP CIRCUIT EVENTS

MCF invites interested parties/organizers who are keen to add their event as part of the GP Circuit Events with the following conditions:

1. The event format must follow the guidelines mentioned in **2.0 GRAND PRIX CIRCUIT EVENT FORMAT**
2. Organizers to formally write in to mcfscretariat@malaysiachess.org at least 2 months before the proposed date for the event to include it as a GP Circuit Event
3. Organizers can only choose either the Gold, Silver or Bronze Events. The Platinum events are reserved for the Malaysian Chess Federation and its affiliates only.
4. The fees to list an event as a GP Circuit Event are as follows:
 - a. Bronze Events RM 250 per event (RM 200 for State)
 - b. Silver Events RM 400 per event (RM 320 for State)
 - c. Gold Events RM 500 per event (RM 400 for State)
 - d. Platinum Events RM 700 per event (States Only)
5. Once approved, all payments are to be made to our MCF Official Accounts as per the following details:
 - a. Account Name PERSEKUTUAN CATUR MALAYSIA
 - b. Bank Name CIMB
 - c. Account Number 8000649725

7. CIRCUIT EVENT SCHEDULE

Each Grand Prix Circuit event shall have its own schedule that complies with FIDE recommendations for a Standard FIDE Rated event. Players are requested to check each event schedule before committing to participate.

8. PRIZE STRUCTURE

Each Grand Prix Circuit event will offer its own prize structure including the total prize fund offered. Players are requested to check each event with the organizer before committing themselves to participate.

MCF will only honor the GP points earned by each player finishing in the top 32 positions.

MCF shall not intervene nor interfere with any decisions or plans made by the organizer of their respective GP Circuit Event except for the distribution of GP Points earned. MCF will not be held liable or responsible if the organizer does not fulfill event promises, including refunds, compensation, or prize fund payments to be made to the winners. In such a situation, a player must refer to the event organizer to claim for damages, refund, compensation, reimbursements, etc.

9. GRAND PRIX CIRCUIT FINAL CHAMPIONSHIP

9.1. Entry / Registration Fees

Players who have qualified for the GP Finals are invited to play for FREE. However, MCF may request a RM250 security deposit to ensure that players will not abandon the tournament.

9.2. Number of Players to be Selected

The top 52 players (Open and Women) and the next top 12 Women players (from number 53 onwards) with the highest GP Points accumulated shall qualify for the GP Circuit Final Championship to be held in January of 2027.

9.3. Selection Tie Break

Should the Grand Prix points collected between two or more players are identical, the following method will be used to break the tie/seeding:

- The higher number of Grand Prix Circuit Events participated,
- The higher number of Total Game Points collected from all the GP Circuit Events participated.
- The earliest Grand Prix Circuit Event participated.
- The ranking of the earliest Grand Prix Circuit Events which was participated by all the players involved. The highest ranked player shall be selected.

9.4. Player Unable to Compete

Should any of the selected player(s) is unable to participate, the offer is extended to the next player in line – starting from no. 53 onwards on the list, extended until the 72nd player in the ranking, until all the slots are filled – whichever is first. In the events the slots are still vacant, MCF reserves the right to either choose a replacement, or to allow players to proceed by forfeiture, or to open the slot to any interested players who are keen to compete with an entry fee of RM350 or more.

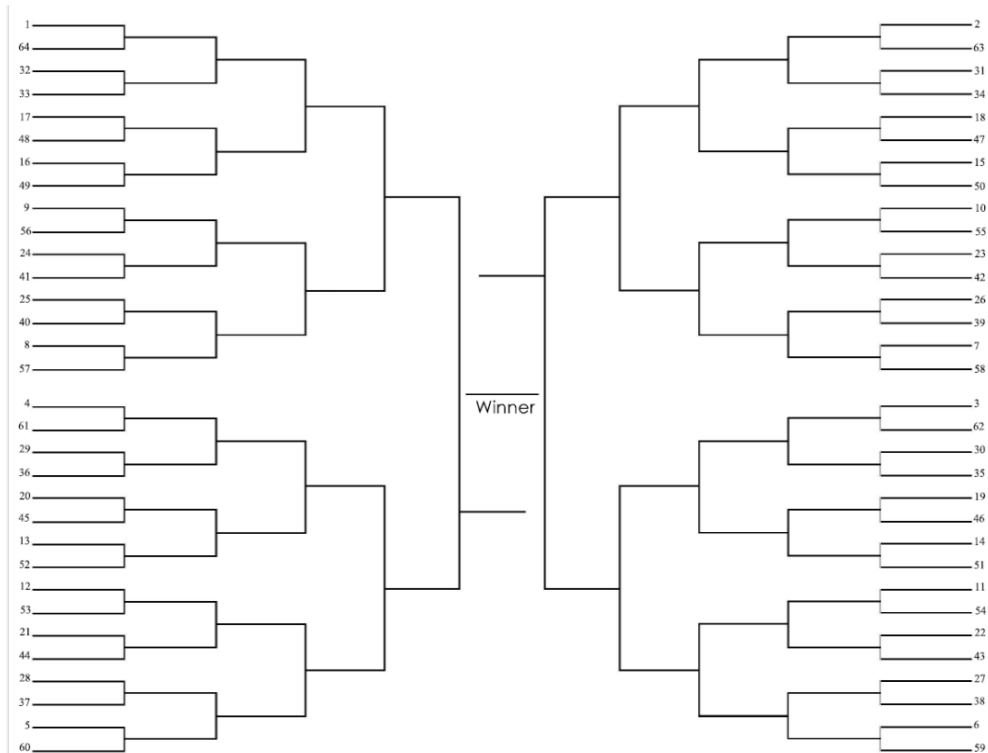
9.5. MCF Rights to Select

MCF reserves the right to reject any player in the list without providing any reasons whatsoever. In such a situation the selection of the replacement player shall follow the Players Selection process mentioned earlier.

9.6. Ranking of Players

Players shall be ranked from 1 to 64 based on their January 2027 FIDE Rating List

9.7. The seeding of the 64 player GP Circuit Final Championship Knock Out Table shall be as follows:



9.8. Playing Format

9.8.1. General Rule

- Based on the players' ranking, players shall be paired based on the knockout table displayed above.
- The higher seeded player shall start the first game playing as White
- Each pair will play two (2) games with alternate color in the 2nd game
- Should the score end in a tie, both players will proceed to play a pair of Blitz game – and continue to alternate colors for the 2nd game.
- Should the score continue to end in a tie, both players will proceed to play in a single round Armageddon style tie breaker with the higher seeded player to draw for colors.

9.8.2. For Round of 64, 32 and 16, each pair of players that are paired to play against one another, shall play two(2) games with alternating color using the Rapid Time Control of 15 minutes plus 10 second increment.

9.8.3. For Round of 8 (Quarterfinal), 4 (Semi Final), 3rd/4th Placing and the Final Championship Match, each pair of players shall play two (2) games each with alternating color using the Standard Time Control of 90 minutes plus 30 second increment.

9.8.4. Where games ended in a tied score of 1-1, each pair of players shall continue to play two (2) games each with alternating color using the Blitz Time Control of 3 minutes plus 2 second increment.

9.8.5. When the Blitz games continue to end in a tied score of 1-1, players will proceed with an Armageddon Style Tie Breaker where the Time Control shall be 5 minutes for the White player and 4 minutes for the Black player with no incremental time for both. In Armageddon style tie breaker, the player handling the White pieces MUST WIN whereas the player playing Black needs only a DRAW to claim the win.

9.8.6. For Armageddon Style Tie Breaker, the higher seeded player will draw for colors.

9.9. GP Circuit Final Schedule

| Date | Day | Time | Event | Rounds |
|-----------|-------------|---------|---------------------------|-------------|
| 16-Jan-27 | Sat | 8:30am | Registration Confirmation | |
| | | 8:45am | Player's Briefing | |
| | | 9:00am | Round of 64 | Game 1 |
| | | 10:00am | | Game 2 |
| | | 11:00am | | Tie Breaker |
| | | 1:00pm | Round of 32 | Game 1 |
| | | 2:00pm | | Game 2 |
| | | 3:00pm | | Tie Breaker |
| | | 4:30pm | Round of 16 | Game 1 |
| | | 5:30pm | | Game 2 |
| 6:30pm | Tie Breaker | | | |
| 17-Jan-27 | Sun | 9:00am | Quarterfinal | Game 1 |
| | | 2:00pm | | Game 2 |
| | | 6:00pm | | Tie Breaker |
| 30-Jan-27 | Sat | 9:00am | Semi Final | Game 1 |
| | | 2:00pm | | Game 2 |
| | | 6:00pm | | Tie Breaker |
| 31-Jan-27 | Sun | 9:00am | Final / 3rd-4th Placing | Game 1 |
| | | 2:00pm | | Game 2 |
| | | 6:00pm | | Tie Breaker |
| | | 7:00pm | Trophy Presentation | |
| | | 7:15pm | Departures | |

The above schedule serves as a guideline and may change prior to the start of the final rounds.

Due to space availability and time constraints, the rounds maybe staggered to allow for games and rounds to run concurrently.

9.10. Prize Fund

The total prize fund offered for the GP Circuit Final Championship 2026 shall be maintained at RM 30,000 based on the following breakdown

- Champion RM 10,000
- Runner Up RM 4,000
- 3rd Place RM 2,500
- 4th Place RM 1,500
- Quarterfinalists RM 1,000 x 4 players
- Round of 16 RM 500 x 8 players
- Round of 32 RM 250 x 16 players
- Round of 64 No Prizes / Free Entry

10. APPEALS

Each GP Circuit Event including the GP Circuit Final Championship shall have its own Appeal Committee which will be appointed prior to the start of Round 1.

- 10.1. Appeal Committee shall have no less than three(3) permanent members with an option to add two(2) reserve members that are appointed prior to the start of Round 1.
- 10.2. Members of the Appeal Committee shall be voted/agreed by the players and can be appointed from among the players, spectators or officials present at the start of Round 1. All Arbiter including the Chief Arbiter and Pairing Arbiter of the event are not allowed to be part of the Appeal Committee.
- 10.3. Any appeals of protest, including appeals against the decision of the Chief Arbiter or any of his assistants, must be submitted in writing and duly signed, to the Chairman of the Appeals Committee within thirty (30) minutes after completion of the disputed game, accompanied by protest fee of RM500. If the protest is upheld, the protest fee will be returned or otherwise forfeited.
- 10.4. All decisions made or recommendations proposed by the Appeals Committee shall be considered as final. No further appeal will be entertained.

11. MCF RIGHTS

MCF has the right to cancel or discontinue the GP Circuit Events including the Championship Final by publishing its intention of doing so on its official website. In such a situation, as there is no compensation, reimbursement or refund to be made to any of the players involved or participated in any of the GP Circuit Events organized either by MCF or Organizers appointed by MCF. Each GP Circuit Event is a standalone event, and only the points accumulated from these circuit events contribute towards the selection of the players who qualify for the GP Circuit Final Championship – as such, no entry fee is required to play in the GP Circuit Final Championship.

However, if the GP Circuit Events and the GP Circuit Final Championship is cancelled, MCF will only return the fees that have been by organizers who has pledged a joining fee for their events to be included in the Circuit. No other reimbursements, compensation, damages or claims will be entertained.

12. EVENT OFFICIALS

12.1. The event main officials are as follows:

| | |
|--------------------|---------------------------------------|
| Circuit Director | Najib Abdul Wahab (AO / MCF Gen. Sec) |
| Technical Director | Wong Qi Hao (FA/IA) |

13. CONTACT DETAILS

For further information or clarification with regards to the Championship, please contact the Malaysian Chess Federation secretariat at mcfsecretariat@malaysiachess.org

Additional information, clarification, news and updates with regards to the GP Circuit Events and the GP Circuit Final Championship 2026 and, other exciting news about the local and regional chess scene, including activities and programs organized by the Federation, can be found on our official website at www.malaysiachess.org or on our official Facebook page at www.facebook.com/malaysianchessfederation