

Tournament Entry

You can enter a [festival tournament online](#) or by completing our [interactive Word or PDF form](#).

Further enquiries: Festival Director Stuart Conquest chess@caletahotel.gi

All Masters Entrants: It is strongly recommended that you do not make any travel or accommodation arrangements until your entry has been confirmed by the Caleta Hotel and Festival Director Stuart Conquest.

Entry Fee

- Entry fees: Masters £100 (entry is free for players holding the GM, IM, WGM or WIM titles). Challenger & Amateur, £50 per event.
- Late entry fee surcharge of £50 per event (if presented after 15 January 2016).
- Participants using the Caleta Hotel packages have their entry fees included.
- First-week morning players who subsequently decide to play in a second-week event will not be charged a late entry fee.

Payment

We prefer online entry and payment. However, you may also pay entry fees by cheque or bank transfer. Cheques should be made payable to the Gibraltar Chess Congress.

Entries should be sent to *The Caleta Hotel, Sir Herbert Miles Road, Gibraltar*. Details for bank transfer will be given upon request. No entry form will be accepted unless payment is received with the entry form. Cancellations received in writing before 1 January 2016 shall receive a full refund.

Right of Refusal

The right is reserved to refuse any entry.

Registration

Players for the Masters tournament must register before 19:30hrs on Monday 25 January 2016 or have confirmed their entry at the Caleta Hotel in order to be included in the first round draw.

Players for first-week Challenger or Amateur tournaments must register before 19:30hrs on Sunday 24 January 2016 or have confirmed their entry at the Caleta Hotel in order to be included in the first round draw.

Default Time

(All Events) Players arriving 30 minutes or more after the start of a session shall lose, unless the arbiter decides otherwise.

Mobile Phones

In line with new FIDE guidelines, all mobile phones, tablets, and similar mobile devices are **banned** from the playing areas.



The organisers will provide solutions for those players not resident at the Caleta Hotel who need to bring such devices to the venue. **If you take a mobile device to the game, even turned off, you risk forfeit.**

No Smoking Rule

Smoking is forbidden in the playing hall and adjacent areas or in the commentary room.

Rating

All five tournaments shall be FIDE rated and ECF graded. Players who are, or who request to be, registered as English (ENG) with FIDE must be ECF Gold members. Join the ECF: +44 (01424) 775 222 or visit www.englishchess.org.uk.



Non English players must provide their FIDE Identification Number (FIN) (ID code) at the time of entry. If you do not have a FIN, you must apply to your own federation for a FIN before entering the tournament.

British Championship Qualifier

The highest placed eligible player not already qualified in the Masters shall qualify for the right to play in the 103rd British Championship (July 23 – August 6) in the Pavilion, Bournemouth.

Payment of Prizes

Prizes in all events shall be paid by cheque or electronic transfer, (the latter with a cost) except for the two evening blitz tournaments and the first week Challenger and Amateur events. Any player wishing to receive their potential prize money in cash (pounds sterling or euros) must inform the hotel of their wish to exercise this option on the entry form. There shall be a charge of 3% of the prize money for this service.

Commentary

Commentaries take place daily in the afternoon in the Archie Suite. Audience participation is encouraged. These commentaries are broadcast live. There is no charge for spectators to watch the games in play, to attend commentaries or to attend evening events, including the master classes.





Publicity

Players are kindly requested to send relevant email contacts for their local and national media to chesspress@caletahotel.gi in advance. This information will enable your results to be reported.

Junior (Under 18) Congress

Separate details will be available from the Caleta Hotel.

Contacts

Festival Organiser:	 Brian Callaghan
Festival Director:	 Stuart Conquest
Hotel or Entry Enquiries:	 Cathy Popham
Press Enquiries:	 Alice Mascarenhas
Webmaster:	 Steve Connor
Bus Transfers:	 Peter Purland

Need a Visa? Click [here](#) for help.

Disputes

Any dispute arising in connection with the rules and regulations governing the Tournament shall be determined by the organising committee and/or appeals committee, whose decision will be final and binding.

Masters (Open to all):	Tues 26 January - Thurs 4 February	(10-round Swiss, FIDE rated)
Challengers A (Under 2250):	Mon 25 January - Fri 29 January	(5-round, Swiss, FIDE rated)
Challengers B (Under 2250):	Sat 30 January - Wed 3 February	(5-round, Swiss, FIDE rated)
Amateurs A (Under 1900):	Mon 25 January - Fri 29 January	(5-round, Swiss, FIDE rated)
Amateurs B (Under 1900):	Sat 30 January - Wed 3 February	(5-round, Swiss, FIDE rated)

Gibraltar Masters: Eligibility: open to all. The first prize may not be shared. All other prizes shall be shared where players have the same score (except the Women's First Prize).

Rate of play: 40 moves in 100 minutes plus 20 moves in 50 minutes plus 15 minutes for all remaining moves with 30 seconds per move added from the start.

In the event of a tie for first place, there shall be a speed play-off. If there are four or fewer players tied for first place, there will be a speed knock-out play-off for the first prize of £20,000.

If three players tie for first place, the player with the highest performance rating will be seeded directly into the Final of the Play-Off; the other two players will contest the Semi-Final.

If more than four players tie for first place, the four players with the highest performance ratings shall qualify for the play-off to decide the first prize.

Women's Awards: If there is a tie for the top women's prize, the tie is resolved in favour of the woman with the highest performance rating, who will receive the prize of £15,000. All other prizes will not be subject to a tiebreak and prize money other than the first prize will be divided equally amongst the players.

Masters Regulations: Important!

Draws by mutual agreement in fewer than 30 moves are not allowed. There must be no pre-arranged or tacit agreements to draw games of any length, by repetition or otherwise.

Warning: penalties may involve loss of prize money.

Players who wish to take up to two half-point byes in rounds 1-7 of the Masters may do so, provided they give adequate notice, but the second requested bye makes a player ineligible for a prize. No player may request a bye in the last three rounds.

Morning events: Each of these is a 5-round Swiss. Rate of play: all the moves in 110 minutes plus 10 seconds per move added from the start. The games rarely last more than four hours. Competitors can play in and win a prize in the Masters as well as a morning event.

Challengers: Players with FIDE ratings under 2250 or unrated.

Amateurs: Eligibility: players with FIDE ratings under 1900, players without FIDE ratings who have a national rating under 1900 or ECF grade under 160. Players without any rating must show evidence that they are not too strong for the Amateur tournaments. The right is reserved to place players in a Challenger tournament if thought unsuitable for the Amateur. An outright winner of the first-week Amateur tournament will be promoted to the second-week Challenger tournament.

All Masters Entrants: It is strongly recommended that you do not make any travel or accommodation arrangements until your entry has been confirmed by the Caleta Hotel and Festival Director Stuart Conquest.

Evening Events will include master classes, pairs and four player team blitz tournaments, and the Battle of the Sexes. Details will appear on this website.

The Opening Ceremony and drawing of lots will take place at 20.30hrs on Monday 25th January 2016 in the main restaurant.

Please note that Round 10 starts at 11.00hrs on the final day (not at 15.00hrs as with rounds 1-9).

Master Classes: These are evening lectures by elite players. Games or positions are analysed and questions taken from the audience. There is no charge to attend. Master Classes are also broadcast live over the internet.



Main Restaurant – Caleta Hotel