INVITATION

43RD CHESS OLYMPIAD
THE 89TH FIDE CONGRESS
BATUMI 2018 GEORGIA

BATUMI CHESS OLYMPIAD ORGANIZING COMMITTEE
Dear friends and chess lovers,

On behalf of the Georgian Chess Federation and the Chess Olympiad Organizing Committee, it is my great honor to invite all FIDE member countries to 43rd Batumi Chess Olympiad and 89th FIDE congress, to be held from 23rd of September till 6th of October 2018 in Batumi, Georgia.

As you may know Georgia has a great history of Chess. Georgia is the homeland of legendary, five times world champions Nona Gaprindashvili and Maia Chiburdanidze. Our country has hosted numerous European and World competitions and we believe that 43rd Chess Olympiad will be another significant event.

This year Georgia celebrates 100 Anniversary of independence and for our country it is great honor to host the guests from all over the world. I do hope that 43rd Chess Olympiad will take considerable place in the hearts of hosts as well as all the attending guests.

George Giorgadze

Chairman
Chess Olympiad Batumi 2018 Organizing Committee
President
Georgian Chess Federation
GENERAL INFORMATION

GEORGIA

Georgia is an ancient, small and rapidly developing modern country situated at the dividing line between Asia and Europe and is bordered by Black Sea. The country has been inhabited since the Paleolithic era, however proto-Georgian tribes first appeared in 12th century BC. During the classical era, several independent kingdoms became established in what is now Georgia, such as Colchis and Iberia. The Georgians adopted Christianity in the early 4th century. Throughout the 12th and 13th centuries AD, the Georgian Kingdom reached its peak and the country expanded its cultural and political influence. These centuries were also a renaissance period for Georgian classical literature, arts, philosophy, architecture and science.

Georgia has a very distinctive culture and traditions that products of the influence of its neighbors and of its own unique civilization. Georgia is famous for its wine, cuisine, mineral water, national dances, polyphonic music and most importantly its friendly people.

As past and present are closely linked with each other, Georgia is one of the famous destinations for tourists from all around the world. Tourist attractions include numerous historic and cultural monuments, three of which are recognized as UNESCO World Heritage Sites. More information regarding tourist destinations can be found on the following website: http://georgia.travel/
Georgia covers a territory of 69,700 square kilometers with about 3,718.2 million population based on the 2017 data from National Statistics Office of Georgia.

The nation is also proud of its language and its own writing system. Georgian (Kartuli) is a language spoken by most of the population, and it represents the official language of the country. The Georgian alphabet is one of the fourteen original alphabets of the world and it is fully phonetic. There are 33 letters and the same amount of sounds in the language. Therefore, the writing language fully coincides with its pronunciation.

**BATUMI**

Batumi is one of the most distinguished tourist destinations on the Black Sea, Adjara region, Georgia. Batumi’s juxtaposition of ancient and modern architecture, its historical port, serene botanical garden, Seaside Boulevard, European squares and streets - not to mention its world class hotels, restaurants, cafes and bars - make up the face of modern Batumi.

It is important to note that in 2012 American Academy of Hospitality Sciences nominated Batumi as the **best tourist destination of the year**.

In the second half of the 19th century European architects flocked to Batumi and designed numerous unique architectural designs. Development of Batumi was closely connected with the global economic and industrial development. During this period the Nobel Brothers and the Rothschild family started their commercial activities in Batumi.

Batumi today is still distinguished by modern architecture and abundance of investments. In addition, modern Batumi is a cultural center in Georgia hosting numerous international festivals with participation of famous musicians and artists.
CURRENCY
The currency in Georgia is the Lari (GEL – Georgian Lari). There are the following Lari banknotes and coins in circulation:
- Banknotes – 5, 10, 20, 50, 100, 200
- Coins – 1, 2, 5, 10, 20, 50
Official exchange rate: 1 EURO = 3.0 GEL and 1 USD = 2.5 GEL as of April 2018. The travelers have the opportunity to use different credit cards approved by the International Payment Systems. There are numerous banks in Batumi. Most of them provide 24/7 services. Visitors are able to use ATM (cash point machines) services throughout the city.

COMMUNICATIONS
The country code is +995 and the area code for Batumi is +995 422. Participants can purchase sim cards of different companies. Please note that maximum 10 sim cards can be bought under presenting one passport. The price for the sim card is 3 Lari. There are many WI-FI zones throughout the city that enable visitors to use the internet for free.

ELECTRICITY
Electrical current – 220 Volts, 50 Hz. EU standard plugs work throughout Georgia.

GETTING AROUND
Parking regulation
After paying parking fee tourists are able to leave their cars 24/7 on the parking areas in Batumi. Parking fees can be paid at banks, fast pay machines or online. At payment moment it is important to specify car number and series.

Rent a CAR
Renting a car for one day costs approximately 50-60$. You can get the contract information about the transport companies from the Tourism information centers.

Transportation by taxi
Getting around Batumi by taxi is quick and comfortable. Getting around the city is safer and more economic by taxi equipped with taximeter. In case you need a check or plan to pay with plastic cards, it is better you notify the operator when calling a taxi because not all the vehicles are equipped with a cash register or POS-terminals.
Prices:

- The average cost of 1 km is 0.90 GEL
- The average call cost is 0.50 GEL

Popular destinations:

- Batumi Airport - City center - 15 GEL
- Batumi Airport - Hotels Sheraton / Radisson / Hilton / Intourist Palace - 15 GEL
- Batumi Airport - Gonio - 20 GEL
- Batumi Airport - Kvariati - 20 GEL
- Batumi Airport - Sarpi - 25 GEL

Public transport

Another type of public transport is so-called Yellow buses. Tickets are available in shopping centers and newsstands.

Getting around the city is also convenient by mini-taxi buses, which can be stopped in every place of the city.

Batumvelo

One of the best ways to explore the city is – by bicycle. According to the price and duration you can choose different packages of Batumvelo. Bicycle terminals are located in the coastal zone of Batumi and in the central parts of the city. The price of a 1-day rental is 4 GEL while 10-day package amounts to 10 GEL.

ARGO CABLE CAR

That’s a complex situated on Anuria Mountain, at an altitude of 250 meters above sea level. It offers a gorgeous panorama of Batumi and its surroundings, the Caucasus Mountains and the Black Sea. The main element of the complex is the cable car connecting the center of Batumi with Anuria Mountain. The trip will take 10 minutes.
CLIMATE

Adjara’s climate is subtropical, with mild winters and hot summers. The Black Sea coastline is humid compared to highland regions. The mountains are distinguished by the considerable amount of snowfall they receive, which sometimes reaches several meters during the winter period.

An average temperature in Autumn ranges from 20°C to 25°C.

GETTING HERE

Official Airline of the Batumi Chess Olympiad is Turkish Airlines.

Official ports of entry and exit for the Batumi Chess Olympiad are the following:

**Batumi International Airport** - located 7 km from the center of Batumi. Travel time approximately 10 to 15 minutes. Currently there are 11 Airlines operating flights up to 10 destinations. For additional information please refer to the following link: [www.batumiairport.com](http://www.batumiairport.com)

**Kutaisi International Airport** – located 124 km from Batumi, travel time approximately 2 hours. There are up to 15 flight destinations operated by 5 Airlines. For additional information please refer to the following link: [http://www.kutaisi.aero/](http://www.kutaisi.aero/)

**Tbilisi International Airport** – located 380 km from Batumi – travel time approximately 6 hours’ drive without traffic. For additional information please refer to the following link: [www.tbilisiairport.com](http://www.tbilisiairport.com)

For detailed information regarding transportation to/from the Airports please refer to the section Transportation.
VISA INFORMATION

No VISA is required to travel to Georgia for the following countries:

**Schengen area countries:** Austria, Belgium, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Netherlands, Poland, Portugal, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Liechtenstein, Norway, Switzerland

**Other countries:** Albania, Montenegro, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Bulgaria, Ireland, Romania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Russia, Belarus, Israel, Croatia, Cyprus, San Marino, Serbia, United Kingdom, Ukraine, Argentina, Turkey, Moldova, Antigua and Barbuda, Bahamas, Barbados, Brazil, Canada, Chile, Columbia, Costa Rica, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Honduras, Mexico, Panama, Uruguay, United States of America, Australia, Bahrain, Brunei, Iran, Jordan, Japan, Kazakhstan, South Korea, Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Lebanon, Malaysia, New Zealand, Oman, Qatar, Singapore, Thailand, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, United Arab Emirates, Uzbekistan, Botswana, Mauritius, South Africa, Seychelles, Mauritania, Aruba.

**Please note,** that the participants holding valid visa and/or residence permission of the following countries are allowed of visa free travel to Georgia: Schengen countries, United States of America, United Kingdom, United Arab Emirates, Bahrain, New Zealand, Japan, Israel, Qatar, Canada, South Korea, Oman, Saudi Arabia, Kuwait.

**Participants from other countries should submit the request for Electronic Visa through the official website via the following link:** [https://www.evisa.gov.ge/GeoVisa/](https://www.evisa.gov.ge/GeoVisa/)

**Please note,** that it is highly recommended to register through the Official Olympiad Registration system at your earliest convenience before 23 June 2018 and submit the information in the visa portal after 6 August 2018 in order to avoid any complications connected with visa security procedures.

Price for the e-visa 20 USD per person should be paid at the e-visa website after fulfilment of the registration.

Special arrangements will be made for participants from Kosovo and Chinese Taipei.

In case of any question regarding the visa procedures, please contact the visa support team of the Organizing Committee via the following e-mail: visa@batumichess.com.
THE VENUE OF THE OLYMPIAD

The Olympiad venue, Sport Palace, situated on the center of Batumi, has been built in 2018 and the first event to be held there will be the Batumi chess Olympiad. The Sport Palace is a very spacious modern complex.

Transportation to the Sport palace from the relevant hotels will be provided by the organizers. Transportation schedule will be available at the information desks located at each hotel as well as at the official website of the Olympiad.

Please note that the players are requested to be at the venue at least 30 minutes before the start of the round to proceed to the security checks. Furthermore, the participants are not allowed to bring non-authorized devices (electronic devices, watches, pens) with them.

PARTICIPATION

The Chess Olympiad is open to all National Federations affiliated to FIDE, each of which can nominate one team for the open section and one for the women's section. Each team consists of four players, one reserve and one captain. The captain may be, but not necessarily, one of the players or the reserve.

Additionally, each delegation can nominate one head of delegation and one delegate for the FIDE congress.

FIDE regulations apply for the Batumi Chess Olympiad like for the other FIDE Chess events.
TOURNAMENT REGULATIONS

The Tournament regulations are in accordance with FIDE Handbook D, Regulations for specific competitions.

D. 2. Chess Olympiad:
1. Regulations for the Chess Olympiad
2. Olympiad Pairing rules

Important Notice

Teams are requested to wear uniforms with two options: either trouser suits or blazers with trousers/skirts with federation logo on jackets or track suits with country clearly shown on the front or back of the uniform.

PAIRINGS AND RESULTS

The pairings and results will be available on the official website: https://batumi2018.fide.com/en/pairings, on the venues of the Olympiad and the Congress, as well as at the Information desk located in all the hotels accommodating the players.

The team captains are requested to announce to the Organizers their team composition for the next round after the end of the previous one, or in the morning of the round to begin, until 11 AM. They can address the “Pairings and Results” desk at the venue or send their team composition from the official Federation e-mail or the e-mail address used for the registration system to the organizers at the address pairingsandresults@batumichess.com with “team composition” as e-mail subject. Please note that you should receive a confirmation from the organizers that your e-mail has been received.

In case of non-performing this procedure, the first four players will be automatically registered for the round.

The captains of the teams will be given green cards for the players who will play in the current round, which should be returned to the Match Arbiters after the game. The players are asked to carry their green player cards with their accreditation badges. Players who don’t participate in the round are asked to enter the venue from the visitors’ entrance if they wish to follow the game.
TRAVEL FUND

The information about the travel fund will be available on the Olympiad’s official website: https://batumi2018.fide.com as well as FIDE website: http://fide.com/

OLYMPIAD SCHEDULE

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>DATE</th>
<th>TIME</th>
<th>OLYMPIAD</th>
<th>CEREMONIES</th>
<th>VENUE</th>
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<tr>
<td>23 September</td>
<td>All Day</td>
<td>Arrival Day</td>
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<td></td>
<td>21:00</td>
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<td>Opening Ceremony</td>
<td>Black Sea Arena</td>
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<td>24 September</td>
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<td>Captains meeting</td>
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<td>TBC</td>
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<td>Arbiters Meeting</td>
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<td></td>
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<td>Round 2</td>
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<td>15:00</td>
<td>Round 5</td>
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<td>Sport Palace</td>
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<td></td>
<td>22:00</td>
<td>Bermuda Party</td>
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<td>Batumi Boulevard</td>
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<td>29 September</td>
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<td>Day Off</td>
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<td>30 September</td>
<td>15:00</td>
<td>Round 6</td>
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<td>Sport Palace</td>
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<td>1 October</td>
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<td>Round 7</td>
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<td>2 October</td>
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<td>Round 10</td>
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<td>5 October</td>
<td>11:00</td>
<td>Round 11</td>
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<td>6 October</td>
<td>20:00</td>
<td>Closing Ceremony</td>
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<td>Batumi State Musical Centre</td>
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<td></td>
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<td>All Day</td>
<td>Departure Day</td>
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Please note, that the schedule might undertake minor changes.
REGISTRATION

All participants to the Olympiad and the Congress have to be registered. The registration is open from 23 April to 23 July 2018.

Registration of teams

The registration of the teams to the Olympiad is open from 23 April to 23 July 2018. Please note, that after this date and until 23 August, the registration of the federations will be at the organizer’s discretion and subject to a penalty fee of 100 EUR per person (late registration penalty). The changes made in the team composition or new registrations made between 23 April to 23 July will be accepted without any penalty. After 23 August no new registrations or changes in the teams’ composition implying registrations of new participants will be accepted.

The organizers have elaborated a special on-line system for the participants of the Olympiad and the Congress: https://batumi2018.fide.com/en/register. The link to the registration system is available also on the official website of the Olympiad https://batumi2018.fide.com under the section: “Registration”.

The explanations on how to register the Federations to the system are given in a letter attached to this Invitation, other explanations on the following steps of the Registration will follow.

The Federations are asked to follow carefully steps of the Registration and to fill all the fields required by the system as all the demanded information is necessary to the Organizers.

Registration of the Accompanying persons

The accompanying persons of the teams may be registered by the Federations only.

Registration of Congress participants

Registration of the Congress participants is the same as for the teams. The Congress participants may register from 23 April until 23 July 2018 through the official registration system of the Olympiad: https://batumi2018.fide.com/en/register

The questions regarding the registration to the Olympiad should be addressed to Ms. Kermen Goryaeva at: kemagoryaeva@batumichess.com

To make the contact between the organizers and the federations easier, the Organizing Committee asks the Federations to nominate only one person in charge of the registration procedure, who will register all the federation’s participants, their accompanying persons and Congress participants.
**Important Remarks**

No participants, accompanying persons, delegates will be accepted to the Olympiad without having passed the registration through the official system, no accreditation will be given to them as well.

Please note that **the Organizers won't accept any registrations after 23 August 2018** for visas and security reasons.

The Federations will receive their Accreditation Confirmation after they have registered to the Olympiad, as well as the name of the Hotel allocated to them and their accompanying persons.

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**ACCREDITATION**

All participants to the Olympiad must be accredited and wear their accreditations when in the venues (Olympiad and the Congress). The federations must send to the organizers an identity picture of each participant that can be used for accreditation via the registration program. Please note that without an identity picture, the accreditation is not valid.

If there is any problem with accreditation during the Olympiad, the participants should go to the accreditation center in the Sport Palace. The Congress participants should address the Congress Accreditation Center located in the Sheraton Hotel.
ACCOMMODATION

All participants of the Olympiad will be accommodated in 5 and 4 stars’ hotels located in Batumi and its surroundings. The teams will be allocated in hotels according to the decision of the Batumi Chess Olympiad Organizing Committee, based on the teams’ performance in the previous Olympiad. Teams will be informed regarding their designated hotels after receiving the registration confirmation for the Olympiad. All teams (6 persons) will get two free double rooms and two free single rooms with full board. The open and female teams and head of delegation from the same Federation will be accommodated in the same Hotel.

If the teams wish to upgrade their rooms (to single rooms) it will be possible with a fee paid before the Olympiad. Please note that no cash payment will be accepted. The accompanying persons of the teams will be accommodated with the teams according to the possibilities of the hotel.

If a team wishes to stay longer than the official dates of the Olympiad or arrive earlier, federations should contact the Organizing Committee. Extra fees for the additional days will apply. Please note that because of the high demand season the Organizing Committee can’t guarantee the availability.

Please notify to the organizers as soon as possible after the registration confirmation the possible changes and wishes regarding the accommodation (room upgrades etc.)

CONGRESS PARTICIPANTS’ ACCOMMODATION

The delegates to the Congress will be accommodated in the Sheraton and Hilton hotels on a full board basis free of charge in single rooms, or in their teams’ hotels upon their request (for additional information please refer to the Congress section).

Other Congress participants, if they are not part of a team, or have another function entitling them to a free accommodation, should cover by themselves their accommodation cost. Payment should be made in advance by bank transfer.
IMPORTANT NOTICE

In each hotel there will be an Information desk for the participants, where they will be able to get their accreditation badges, the Information Bulletin (containing all the useful information, program, and schedule) and gifts from the organizers.

The organizers ask the team captain only to check in and out the team and approach the information desk at the Hotel to take the accreditation badges and the gifts for the team. If the captain of the team is missing on the arrival day, the team should select one of their members to do the check-in and take the gifts for the whole team, so as to avoid crowds in front of the help desks. The participants may address to the help desk to get any information or help. To check the help desk working hours please refer to the Information Bulletin that will be given to you upon arrival at the hotel. A hot line will also be communicated to the participants through which they will be able to get information or help 24/7 during the Olympiad.

In all hotels, the participants will benefit from a free Wi-Fi service.

The meals will be served as a buffet, please advise the organizers if you have particular dietary requirements.
PARTICIPATING HOTELS LIST AND PRICES

All prices include taxes, Internet Access and Full Board
All prices are shown per night.

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<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Hotel</th>
<th>Single room Price in Euro</th>
<th>Double room (per person) Price in Euro</th>
<th>Upgrade to single from double in Euro</th>
<th>Executive Single Price in Euro</th>
<th>Executive Double (per person) Price in Euro</th>
<th>Executive Suite Single Price in Euro</th>
<th>Executive Suite Double (per person) Price in Euro</th>
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<td>1</td>
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<td>Euphoria Apartments</td>
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For Congress participants only

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In case of any questions regarding accommodation please contact our accommodation team via the following e-mail: Accommodation@batumichess.com
TRANSPORTATION

Transportation from and to the Batumi International Airport will be provided free of charge by the Organizing Committee. In case of arrival to the other destinations, please fill in the special box in the registration system of the Olympiad through the official website: https://batumi2018.fide.com/en

Price list for round trip (per person) from:

- Kutaisi International Airport: 50 Euros
- Tbilisi International Airport: 80 Euros
- Trabzon Airport: 80 Euros

Please note, that the payment to BCOOC should be done via bank transfer during 23 April – 23 July 2018. Bank details will be communicated to the Federations through the invoices, received from the Organizers.

Information desks will be located at the luggage claim zone at each Airport where the participants can get the information and assistance from the Organizers in case of necessity.

Please note that the organizers don’t bear any responsibility for lost luggage. Participants taking connecting flights should foresee the possibility of a lost luggage and take some belongings in their cabin luggage. Participants should inform nevertheless the organizers at the Airport Help Desk about lost luggage to allow them to bring the luggage to the hotels once it arrives. The daily transportation between the hotels and the playing Hall venue, to and from the Opening and Closing Ceremonies is provided by the organizers. The transportation schedule will be available at the Info desk of each hotel, in the Information Bulletin and on the official website of the Olympiad: https://batumi2018.fide.com under the section “For participants”.

https://batumi2018.fide.com
The registration fee is 100 Euro per person. This fee covers the accreditation and transportation costs during the whole Olympiad in Batumi.

Accommodation: The upgrade fees and the accompanying persons’ accommodation fees payment must be made between 23 April to 23 July 2018 via a bank transfer.

Transportation: federations should make the payment for the transfers to/from the Airports (according to the rates stated above in the section Transportation) between 23 April to 23 July 2018 via a bank transfer.

Penalty fees:
- late registration: 100 Euro per person, in addition to the regular registration fee
- no show: equal to one-night price

The total sums to be paid by the Federation will be calculated after their Registration. The bank details for the transfers will be communicated to the Federations in the Invoices that they will get from the Organizers.

The Federations are considered responsible by the Organizing Committee for their accommodation reservations. In case of no shows or problems regarding the payments, the organizers will address the Federations for financial regularizations.
OPENING AND CLOSING CEREMONIES

The Opening Ceremony of the Chess Olympiad will be held at the largest concert hall in Georgia – “Black Sea Arena” – which can contain almost 10 000 spectators. Many worldwide famous stars have held their concerts at the “Black Sea Arena”: Christina Aguilera, Vanessa Mae, Aerosmith, Eric Benet. And in the nearest future, one more superstar will be added to the list - Sir Elton John’s concert will take place in Georgia, at the “Black Sea Arena”.

As for the Closing Ceremony, it will take place at the “Batumi State Musical Center”.

INVITATION / 43rd CHESS OLYMPIAD AND THE 89th FIDE CONGRESS
BATUMI CHESS OLYMPIAD ORGANIZING COMMITTEE
OFFICIAL WEBSITE

All the necessary information about the Olympiad is available on the Official website of the Olympiad: [https://batumi2018.fide.com](https://batumi2018.fide.com).

We kindly ask you to check the website regularly, and if you have any doubts consult the appropriate sections. They may contain the information you were looking for.

INFORMATION BULLETIN

The Information Bulletin will be given to all the participants to the Olympiad upon their arrival to Batumi. The bulletin will contain a lot of useful information, so the Organizers invite all the participants to the Olympiad to read it carefully.

OLYMPIAD HOT LINE

A call center will be operating two months before the Olympiad, just after the closing of the registration system. Please note, that the preferred way to contact the organizers will still be by email. The Organizers request that federations use the call center only in case of strict necessity or emergencies.

Phone number: +995 591 04 20 18
Working hours (GMT+4): 10:00 - 18:00.
Hot line will be operational 24/7 during the Olympiad.
THE 89th FIDE CONGRESS

The 89th FIDE Congress will be held in the Sheraton and Hilton Hotels in Batumi. All Congress participants (Delegates, Commission Chairpersons, Secretaries and members) must register through the Olympiad's official registration system. The Congress participants, except the FIDE Presidential Board and FIDE officials should pay the registration fee of 100 Euros to BCOOC. The Congress participants will be able to obtain their accreditation cards in the Accreditation Center located in the Sheraton Hotel.

Except if they demand to the organizers to be accommodated in a different Hotel, the Congress participants will be accommodated in the hotels Sheraton and Hilton. The accommodation in the same hotel as the national team is possible, but the transport to and from the Congress venue won't be provided by the Organizers.

The Organizers offer the Congress delegates free accommodation in single rooms, with a full board. The other Congress participants should pay for their accommodation by themselves according to the rates indicated in the section “Accommodation”.

A double occupancy and food supplement of Euros 89 per person and per night should be covered by the Congress delegates if they are coming with an accompanying person sharing their room. Please note that for delegates who register for the Congress for particular dates, and then change their participation dates without informing the organizers the accommodation won't be guaranteed and they will be fined a no show penalty.
# THE 89th FIDE CONGRESS SCHEDULE

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<td>Chess in Schools Commission (CIS)</td>
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BATUMI CHESS OLYMPIAD ORGANIZING COMMITTEE

BCOOC office Address: 37a Kostava str; 0179, Tbilisi, Georgia
BCOOC Hot Line: +995 591 04 20 18

A call center will be operational after the closing of the registration procedure. Please note, that the preferred way to contact the organizers will still be by e-mail: info@batumichess.com

2018 Chess Olympiad Organizing Committee:

George Giorgadze
Chairman

Mikheil Kharabadze
Head of Administrative Department

David Mardaleishvili
Head of Logistics and Transport Department

Akaki Iashvili
Head of Accommodation and Playing Zone

Irine Guliashvili
Head of PR and Marketing Department

Tamara Kapanadze
Head of International Relations Department