

Annex

European Hybrid Format

General

288 players will be divided into mini-tournaments, numbered 1 to 36, composed of 8 players. The winner of each mini-tournament will qualify for the World Cup.

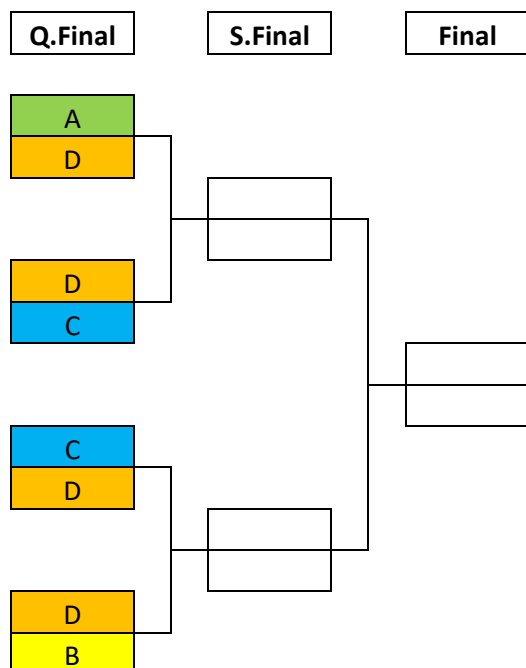
Each mini-tournament will be a knockout tournament.

Seeding

The players will be seeded from 1-288 by FIDE standard rating on 1st May 2021, and they will be divided in the following way:

- Category A Seeds 1 – 36
- Category B Seeds 37 – 72
- Category C Seeds 73 – 144
- Category D Seeds 145 – 288

Each mini-tournament will have the following structure:



For each mini-tournament X, the players will be assigned as follows:

From Cat A: Seed X.

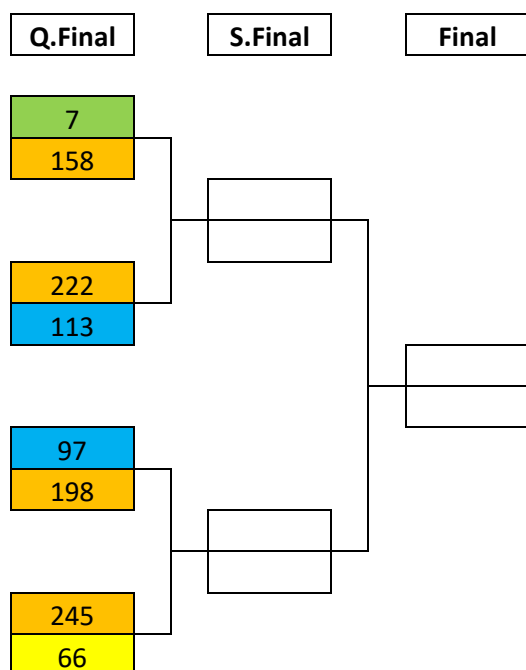
From Cat B: Seed (73 - X).

From Cat C: Two players drawn at random

From Cat D: Four players drawn at random

Example

For mini-tournament 7:



A 7

B $73 - 7 = 66$

C Numbers drawn at random between 73 and 144; 97 and 113 for illustration only

D Numbers drawn at random between 145 and 288; 158, 198, 222 and 245 for illustration only

Number of Entries Considerations

If more than 288 players enter the tournament, then there will be a Preliminary Round, which will also be played as knockout matches. These matches will be played between the lowest-rated players in the tournament only; i.e. if $288 + n$ players enter the tournament, then seeds $(288 - n + 1)$ to $(288 + n)$ will be paired in the preliminary round by random draw.

If fewer than 288 players enter the tournament, then the brackets will be amended in the following way:

- The highest-seeds in Category A, from 1 to 36 in turn, will receive a Quarter Final bye
- The highest-seeds in Category B, from 37 to 72 in turn, will receive a Quarter Final bye
- The highest-seeds in Category C, from 73 to 144, will receive a Quarter Final bye but still be drawn randomly to fit into the tournament bracket