

Inspection of Rimini (Italy) for the European School Chess Championship 2024

Dates of Championship:	13 th – 23 rd of June 2024	Federation:	Italy
Inspector:	Paris Klerides (CYP)	Dates of Inspection:	25/06/2022
Accompanied by:	Christina Pernici Rigo, Michele Cordara and Deborah Stacchini		

Rimini is a city in the Emilia-Romagna region of northern Italy and the capital city of the Province of Rimini. It sprawls along the Adriatic Sea, on the coast between the rivers Marecchia (the ancient *Ariminus*) and Ausa (ancient *Aprusa*). It is one of the most notable seaside resorts in Europe with revenue from both internal and international tourism forming a significant portion of the city's economy. It is also near San Marino, a small nation within Italy. The first bathing establishment opened in 1843. Rimini is an art city with ancient Roman and Renaissance monuments, and is also the birthplace of the famous film director Federico Fellini.

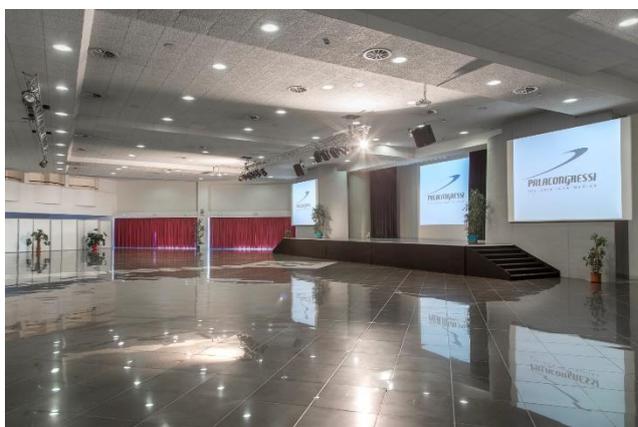
The city was founded by the Romans in 268 BC. Throughout Roman times, Rimini was a key communications link between the north and south of the peninsula. On its soil, Roman emperors erected monuments such as the Arch of Augustus and the Tiberius Bridge to mark the beginning and the end of the Decumanus of Rimini. During the Renaissance, the city benefited from the court of the House of Malatesta, which hosted artists like Leonardo da Vinci and produced works such as the Tempio Malatestiano. The main monuments in Rimini are the Tiberius Bridge and the Arch of Augustus. In the 19th century, Rimini was one of the most active cities on the revolutionary front, hosting many of the movements seeking to achieve Italian unification. In the course of World War II, the city was the scene of numerous clashes and bombings, but also of a fierce partisan resistance that earned it the honour of a gold medal for civic valour. In recent years it has become one of the most important sites for trade fairs and conferences in Italy.

As of 31 December 2019, Rimini's urban area was home to 151,200 people, with approx. 325,000 living in the eponymous province, making it the 28th largest city in Italy.

Playing Venue: "Conference Hall of Bellaria (Rimini)"



The Conference Hall of Bellaria is a congress and exposition centre located in the city center, in the immediate vicinity of the station, the promenade and hotel facilities a few kilometers from the motorway exit of Rimini Nord.



The size of the playing hall is 1020sqm. The venue will be equipped with a thick carpet, sufficient light and air-conditioning. They will use tables, boards and chess sets in FIDE standards and they will be offering the players free water during the whole tournament. Next to the playing hall there are 7 toilets and 4 urinals for men and 4 toilets for women. In addition to the listed toilets, there is one toilet for handicap people for both, males and females, in each section. There is also a toilet that will be used exclusively by the arbiters and other officials.

The photos below show how the space was designed in the past for other events.



Arbiters' Area: There is a theater stage in the playing hall where the arbiters' desks will be placed. In backstage there are dressing rooms, toilets and relaxing rooms furnished with sofas, tables and chairs where the arbiters and other officials can rest and leave their personal belongings.



A room can also be used for Appeals Committee or/and Anti-Cheating Committee.



Several smaller rooms can be used as press center, analyzing room and for live transmission of games. The Venue offers different additional rooms for arbiters, organizers, journalists, tournament director etc.



The organizers shall also arrange for a designated space for all the people accompanying the players where they can spend their time happily as there is a cafeteria in the area with a variety of drinks and snacks.



Panoramic room of 970 sqm - catering area with natural light and partially darkened. Internal professional kitchen, bar area with service on request, toilets and independent entrance.



Welcome area of 150 sqm and a Foyer of 740 sqm - accreditation area with desk, bar service on request, secretary and cloakroom area.



Expo Area on level 1, 750 sqm with adjoining changing rooms and bathrooms.

Lodging and Meals

Accommodation on full board basis (breakfast, lunch and dinner) will be provided to all participants from June 13th until June 22nd as follows.

Accommodation price in double room is €84 euro per person per day.

Child reduction in triple and quadruple room:

Up to 2 years old: free
3 to 7 years old: -25%
8 to 12 years old: -15%
Over 13 years old: -10%

All hotels are also available for disabled players. Additionally, in all hotels, special attention will be paid for Muslims, Vegetarians, Vegans and other's participants' diets.

The inspection took place only in the three nearest hotels from the playing venue. The organizers have a special agreement with a tourist organization and depending on the number of participants, they will accommodate participants in the next nearest hotels in the coastal area.

Hotel DERBY*** Distance, 700m from the Playing Venue.

General Information:

Capacity	Rooms		Meal	Distance	Time	Transport to Venue
	Double	Triple				
104 persons	31 rooms that can be configured according to the needs of the participants. Up to 6 persons.		Buffet	700m	8 minutes	Walking

The Derby Hotel is surrounded by the greenery of its garden to spend peaceful and fun moments assisted by the Giorgetti family who have not forgotten the ancient tradition of hospitality of the people of Romagna.



It is located in a quiet area just 100 meters from the sea, in an internal street of the port that leads directly to the beach and a 5-minute walk from the pedestrian area. Consisting of structures obtained from old fishermen's houses and today completely transformed and modernized, this 3-star hotel in Bellaria - Igea Marina has become a welcoming residence for tourists, equipped with all the most modern comforts and a careful redevelopment of the

services offered. A modernity in full respect of tradition and local identity: a place that manages to convey warmth and emotions, on a human and family scale.



The 31 rooms are equipped with free Wi-Fi connection, air conditioning, memory mattresses and pillows and crystal shower box. They are completely sanitized by following the protocols in force as well as by an ozone machine (sanitation).



The hotel has two dining areas. One is on the first floor and the other is outside right next to the main entrance of the hotel.





The space of both restaurants is not enough to serve all the guests at the same time, so an arrangement should be made so that about half are served in one restaurant and the other half in the other restaurant.

Hotel RIO*** Distance, 950m from the Playing Venue.

General Information:

Capacity	Rooms		Meal	Distance	Time	Transport to Venue
	Double	Triple				
140 persons approx.	50 rooms that can be configured according to the needs of the participants.		Buffet	950m	12 minutes	Walking

The Rio Hotel is located in Bellaria, 950 meters from the Playing Venue. To reach the beach, simply cross the seafront street. It is an ideal choice for those who travel in pairs, but especially for families with children. You have everything close, the sea, the shops, the center, the parks: give yourself the "privilege" to discover Bellaria and around in total tranquility and relaxation.



Compact, unfussy rooms come with balconies, many with sea views, as well as flat-screen TVs, mini fridges, iPod docks and free Wi-Fi. Family rooms add pull-out sofas, and top-floor rooms offer expanded balconies with panoramic sea views. Every morning in the lobby, you will find a selection of the main newspapers.



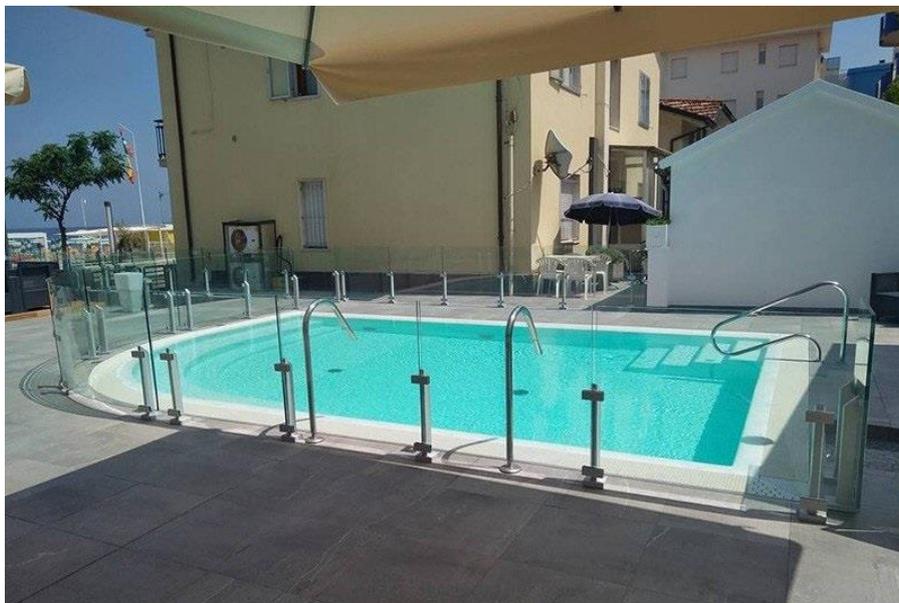
To relieve tension or stretch the nerves (maybe on the way back from the playing hall), the sea-view balconies are panacea phenomenal.

Rio Hotel has 50 rooms of which 3 are single. The rest can accommodate 2 to 4 persons depending. There is also a family room that can accommodate up to 6 persons.



The restaurant can serve 130 persons at the same time. The kitchen of the hotel is equipped also for preparing baby food and delicious baby menus that will satisfy with courtesy and competence needs of families and children.





The seafront terrace houses a 30 square meters swimming pool, 110 cm deep and heated, with hydro massage, waterfall and solarium area. By the pool there is a bar area equipped with tables and sofas where aperitifs are organized.

Hotel Columbia*** Distance, 1 Km from the Playing Venue.

General Information:

Capacity	Rooms		Meal	Distance	Time	Transport to Venue
	Double	Triple				
80 persons approx.	35 rooms that can be configured according to the needs of the participants. Up to 4 persons.		Buffet	1 Km	12 minutes	Walking

Hotel Columbia is located in the central area of Bellaria, 1 Km from the Playing Venue, near the port and the "Isola dei Platani". It is a small hotel with great welcome experience. It overlooks the seafront, limited traffic area and pedestrian area in the evening. The common areas are characterized by an original terrace on the seafront with a Zen garden, from which to observe the walk in complete relaxation and the renowned beach of Bellaria. The hotel offers typical Romagna hospitality, with good cuisine and quality services.



Columbia Hotel has 35 rooms consisting of 80 beds in total. Most of them can accommodate 2 to 4 persons depending. There is also a family room that can accommodate up to 6 persons. The rooms have a balcony (also with sea view), air conditioning, direct dial telephone, satellite TV, safe, 50 Mbit/s fiber Wi-Fi, private bathroom with shower and hairdryer.



The restaurant is right across the sea with a beautiful view of the beach and it is fully air-conditioned.



The new Junior Pool & SPA is born on the raised terrace facing the sea. A reserved, modern and original space, dedicated to relaxation and fun for adults and children. Eight positions of whirlpool jets for the whole body and heated water (depth of 120 cm).



Even though the playing hall seems to meet the requirements and the hotels are located in a good area, the distance between them will obviously be a huge problem for the participants as walking in the heat in mid-June is considered extremely difficult, especially for those who will walk immediately after noon before the games and they will be very sweaty.

I personally walked twice the route to and from the playing venue and I have my own opinion that the problem will be huge if there is no means of transportation.

Airport Connections:

Rimini Airport (RMI) or "Federico Fellini International Airport" serves the city of Rimini as well as San Marino. It is located in Miramare, about 7 km from Rimini city centre which is why it was previously known as "Rimini Miramare Airport". It offers international flights to several European countries, as well as domestic flights. In 2019, the airport handled about 400000 passengers which was a significant increase compared to the previous years. With a short distance of only a few kilometers, RMI Airport offers multiple ways of transportation between the airport and the city.

There is a bus line (no. 9) operating between the airport and Rimini railway station. Buses depart every 30 minutes. The journey takes about 20 minutes. This is a very convenient way to get from the airport to the city. From the train station in Rimini, you can continue to other locations in the city by public transport.

Rimini is also regularly served by the "Bologna International Airport" located 110 kilometers away. The airport is attractive primarily because it serves local and international flights, including budget airlines (low-cost carriers): Ryanair, Wizz Air, Pegasus, etc. As a result, you can get from many European cities to Bologna and the surrounding area at very attractive prices.

The transfer from/to Rimini airport is free (cost it's included in the registration fee) for both ways). In addition, the transfer can be arranged from Bologna Airport for an extra €30 per person (per way).

Additional information/remarks:

There will be an invitation with free accommodation for some journalists. Visitors will be able to follow the results online and find photos, videos and reports. Eight months before the event commences, a special website will be launched in 4 languages. Participants from Small Nations will have 30% discount to registration fee. There will be also organized parallel activities such as arbiters seminars and simultaneous games.

Conclusion:

The bid of the Italian Chess Federation could meet the requirements of such a European Event but **my main concern is the long distances from the hotels to the playing venue and vice versa by walking in the great heat of June.**

It is also obvious that Rimini will be great for such an event especially for parents who will accompany their children.

30.06.2022



Paris Klerides (CYP)