



Location

TECMAIA, R. Eng. Frederico Ulrich 2650, 4470-605 Maia
<https://goo.gl/maps/tKCBjGzU2vwcS7D78>
GPS: 41.259249, -8.642422

Dates

August 20 to 29, 2026

The tournament regulations, structure or format may be subject to changes based on circumstances and number of players. No significant changes are planned from August 1, 2026.

Organization

The Festival is organized by Academia de Xadrez da Maia and consists of the following events:

- **Maia Chess Open - Maia Masters**, a 9-round tournament aimed at facilitating Chess Master norm opportunities (August 21 to 29);
- **Maia Chess Open - U2000**, a 9-round tournament (August 21 to 29);
- Douro Blitz Cruise (August 20);
- Queens Blitz (August 23);
- Maia Streamers Blitz Cup (August 25);
- Masterclasses (August 24, 26, 27 and 28);
- Chess Congress (to be announced);
- Night Chess Party (August 25);
- Maia Rapid Cup (August 25)

All games are played under FIDE rules.

Rating

Tournament rating by FPX and FIDE for their Elo rankings will be requested. The Elo considered for the tournament is determined by the FIDE standard Elo from the August 2026 lists.



Maia Chess Open – Portugal 2026

Maia Masters / U2000 Tournament

1 Regulations

1.1 Organization

The tournament is organized by Academia de Xadrez da Maia, with the support of the Maia City Council.

1.2 Tournament Direction and Arbitration Team

The director and arbiters will be appointed by Academia de Xadrez da Maia.

1.3 Venue and Schedule

TECMAIA, R. Eng. Frederico Ulrich 2650, 4470-605 Maia

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GPS: 41.259249, -8.642422

Porto Metro Line C (Mandim stop)

Date and Time	Event
August 20, 16:00	Douro Blitz Cruise – Festival Opening
August 21, 16:00	Reception, Accreditation and Opening Ceremony
August 21, 19:00	Round 1
August 22, 16:00	Round 2
August 23, 16:00	Round 3
August 24, 16:00	Round 4
August 25, 10:00	Round 5
August 26, 16:00	Round 6
August 27, 16:00	Round 7
August 28, 16:00	Round 8
August 29, 10:00	Round 9
August 29, 16:00	Prize Ceremony

1.4 Participants

- **Maia Chess Open - Maia Masters:** Requirement of FIDE Elo equal to or greater than 2000, determined by the FIDE standard Elo from the August 2026 lists.
- **Maia Chess Open - U2000 Tournament:** Requirement of FIDE Elo less than 2000, determined by the FIDE standard Elo from the August 2026 lists.



The organization reserves the right of admission to the tournaments. All players not affiliated with the Portuguese Chess Federation will be affiliated by the organization, if they so wish, at no additional cost.

1.5 Registration

Maia Chess Open - Maia Masters Registration (Elo equal to or greater than 2000)

Until April 15 (inclusive)	Until July 31 (inclusive)	Until August 18 (inclusive)
60.00€	70.00€	80.00€

Players with GM, IM, WGM and WIM titles are exempt from the registration fee.

The organization may make exceptions for players with Elo below 2000 to participate in the Maia Chess Open - Maia Masters tournament. In such cases, an additional fee on top of the registration fee is required, subject to approval by the tournament direction:

- 150€ for players with Elo between 1800 and 1899;
- 100€ for players with Elo between 1900 and 1999;

Maia Chess Open - U2000 Tournament Registration

Until April 15 (inclusive)	Until July 31 (inclusive)	Until August 18 (inclusive)
60.00€	70.00€	80.00€

Registration must be done by filling out the form on the tournament website <https://axm.pt/registrations/>. Information via email maiachessfestival@axm.pt. Registration is only valid after payment of the registration fee to Academia de Xadrez da Maia via IBAN PT50 0010 0000 5839 7720 0015 0 or via Wise transfer to IBAN BE05 9676 0506 7875.



Proof of payment must be submitted on the website, in the dedicated area. The payment date determines the deadline and, consequently, the registration value.



1.6 Game System

Swiss system of 9 rounds. The Direction may opt for accelerated pairings in the first 2 or 3 rounds, applying the accelerated pairing method (according to article C.04.7.1, effective from February 1, 2026), depending on the number of participants. Each player will have 90 minutes for the first 40 moves, with an addition of 30 minutes after move 40 and an increment of 30 seconds per move from the first move. The waiting time after the start of each game will be 30 minutes after the start of the round. Draw agreements are not allowed before Black's move 30 is completed without the approval of the chief arbiter or deputy arbiter.

1.7 No-Shows

Players who do not appear in the first round will be eliminated from the tournament, except in exceptional situations accepted by the tournament direction.

1.8 Byes

Until round 4 (inclusive), each player may request three byes of 0.5 points each. In the remaining rounds, byes are allowed but with 0 points. Bye requests will not be considered from players who have not yet paid the registration fee.

1.9 Withdrawals

Withdrawals until August 1 will receive a full refund of the registration value and, between this date and August 19, only 50% of the value will be refunded. From August 20, there will be no right to a refund. In both cases, any applicable bank or payment processing fees will be deducted from the refund amount.



1.10 Prize List

Maia Chess Open - Maia Masters (Elo equal to or greater than 2000)

Classification	Prize
1st Place Overall	2,000€
2nd Place Overall	1,000€
3rd Place Overall	600€
4th Place Overall	400€
5th Place Overall	300€
6th Place Overall	150€
7th Place Overall	100€
8th Place Overall	100€
9th Place Overall	100€
10th Place Overall	100€
1st Female Player	100€
1st Veteran +50	100€
1st Veteran +65	100€

Maia Chess Open - U2000 Tournament

Classification	Prize
1st Place Overall	1,000€
2nd Place Overall	500€
3rd Place Overall	400€
4th Place Overall	300€
5th Place Overall	200€
6th Place Overall	150€
7th Place Overall	100€
8th Place Overall	100€
9th Place Overall	100€
10th Place Overall	100€
1st Female Player	100€
1st Veteran +50	100€
1st Veteran +65	100€

In addition to the top 3 finishers of the Maia Masters Tournament and the U2000 Tournament, the top finishers in the U08, U10, U12, U14 and U16 categories in the U2000 Tournament will receive trophies. Absence from the prize ceremony will result in forfeiture of the prize. Monetary prizes are not cumulative; the winner keeps the prize of higher value.



1.11 Tiebreak Criteria

In case of a tie, the final classification will be determined by successive application of the following criteria:

1. Average Rating of Opponents Cut 1;
2. Buchholz Cut 1;
3. Buchholz;
4. Direct encounter between the players in tie;
5. Number of Wins;
6. Games descending (more is better).

All tie-breaks are calculated as described in the FIDE Tie-Break Regulations (FIDE Handbook C.07).

In case of a tie between two players for first place, the Tournament Direction may call a match between the players, with two games at a time control of 3'+2", with the player with better tiebreak criteria choosing the initial color. If, after the two games, the result remains tied, a final Armageddon game will be played, with 5 minutes for White and 4 minutes for Black, with an increment of 1 second per move from move 40.

1.12 Rating

Tournament rating by FPX and FIDE for their Elo rankings will be requested. The tournament will be part of the Portugal Chess Tour 2025/2026 and will enable GM and IM norm opportunities.

1.13 Additional Rules

- By registering and participating, players expressly accept the provisions of these regulations as well as FPX and FIDE regulations;
- The possession or use of any electronic device by players and spectators in the playing area is strictly prohibited;
- Communication between players and the public is prohibited without the permission and supervision of the arbiters;
- A reception desk will be available at the entrance where all electronic devices must be deposited for the entire duration of each game;
- Players must wear appropriate attire and maintain sportsmanlike conduct throughout the competition;



- All participants consent to the capture and use of photographs, videos and other media from the event for promotional purposes as the Organization sees fit. Personal data collected will be used solely for event organization and communication with registrants;
- The organization reserves the right to:
 - grant or deny admission to the tournament;
 - amend these Regulations up until the day of the event;
 - exclude any player from the tournament if the arbiters deems it justified due to cheating or rule violations;
- Any cases not covered by these regulations shall be decided by the Tournament Direction. Such decisions are final and not subject to appeal.

Maia International Chess Festival 2026 – Schedule

Event	Date
Douro Blitz Cruise	August 20
Maia Chess Open - Maia Masters	August 21 to 29
Maia Chess Open - U2000 Tournament	August 21 to 29
VIII Congress - “Chess in School”	To be announced
Queens Blitz	August 23
Maia Streamers Blitz Cup	August 25
Night Chess Party	August 25
Maia Rapid Cup	August 25
Summer Chess Camp	August 24 to 28
Masterclasses	August 24 to 28

More information can be obtained by contacting via email maiachessfestival@axm.pt, visiting www.axm.pt or contacting +351 966 000 194 via WhatsApp.



Douro Blitz Cruise

A unique blitz tournament, played aboard a cruise on the Douro River, with stunning views over Porto's Ribeira and Vila Nova de Gaia. An experience that combines chess competition with the charm of UNESCO World Heritage.



Cruise from 16:00 to 18:00. Registration is subject to available spots. Swiss system of 5 rounds, 3m+2s per player. The tournament will be rated for FIDE Elo.

Player Registration

	Until July 30, 2026 Maia Chess Open			Until August 20, 2026 Maia Chess Open		
	General	Players	Groups >5	General	Players	Groups >5
Price	60.00€	50.00€	50.00€	70.00€	60.00€	60.00€

Companion Registration

	Until July 30, 2026	Until August 20, 2026
Price	40€	50€

Players with GM title are exempt from the registration fee.

Registration must be done by filling out the form on the tournament website. Information via email maiachessfestival@axm.pt.

Open bar with drinks is included in the registration fee.



Summer Chess Camp

A week of activities for young people aged 6 to 15, where chess blends with outdoor fun: swimming pool, horseback riding and much more. The perfect camp to learn and make new friends.



Summer Chess Camp + Maia Chess Open

	Until July 30, 2026		Until August 21, 2026	
	General	AXM Athletes	General	AXM Athletes
Price	100.00€	80.00€	120.00€	100.00€

- Price includes lunch and transport to Maia Chess Open;
- 10% discount applies to sibling registration;
- Registration by email: maiachessfestival@axm.pt

Registration – Other Festival Events

Queens Blitz (August 23)

An event dedicated to women’s chess, combining a blitz tournament with brunch and socializing in a relaxed atmosphere. Open to all women who want to play, learn and have fun.

Until July 30, 2026	Until August 21, 2026
Free	5.00€

Maia Rapid Cup (August 25)

A rapid tournament open to all players, held in the afternoon of the morning round day of the Maia Chess Open.



	Until July 30, 2026	Until August 24, 2026
Maia Chess Open players	10.00€	20.00€
Other players	20.00€	30.00€

Players with the titles of WFM, FM, WIM, IM, WGM and GM are exempt from the registration fee.

Free Events

The following events are free to attend:

- Night Chess Party (August 25)
- Masterclasses (August 24 to 28)
- Congress “Chess in School”

Wild Card (access to all festival tournaments)

Until April 30, 2026	Until July 31, 2026	Until August 18, 2026
100.00€	120.00€	130.00€

Accommodation

For accommodation through the organization, contact by email maiachessfestival@axm.pt

Maia

- **Hotel Premium Porto Maia** – R. Simão Bolívar 375, 4470-214 Maia – +351 22 943 5650
- **Hotel Central Parque** – Av. Visc. de Barreiros 83, 4470-151 Maia – +351 22 947 5563
- **Oporto Airport & Business Hotel** – R. Casimiro Albano Monteiro 35, 4470-428 Maia – +351 22 496 3455
- **Stay Hotel Porto Aeroporto** – Rua Vasconcelos Costa 466, 4470-558 Moreira – +351 22 004 6590
- **Park Hotel Porto Aeroporto** – Av. do Aeroporto 241, 4470-558 Maia – +351 22 940 1300
- **Hotel 3K Porto Aeroporto** – R. Casimiro Albano Monteiro, 4470-428 Maia – +351 22 014 9750



Stay in Porto City Center (with metro nearby – 20 minute journey to Maia)

- **Carlos Alberto Square Apartments, Porto** – Praça Carlos Alberto, 93 4050-158 Porto – +351 963 711 650
- **NH Collection Porto Batalha** – Praça da Batalha, 62, 4000-101 Porto – +351 227 660 600

Budget Accommodation

- **Pousada e Hostel das Flores** – R. de São Gens 2787, 4460-282 Sra. da Hora – +351 911 757 723
- **Residência Céu Azul** – R. João das Regras 163, 4000-293 Porto – +351 22 205 4163