



BRAINCHESS ACADEMY PRESENTS

BrainChess Schools Chess Championship 2026

One continent. One vision. One move.

DATE	TIME	VENUE
3 October 2026	8:00 AM WAT	Celebr8 Centre, Ikeja

OFFICIAL TOURNAMENT REGULATIONS

Recognised by FIDE and the Nigerian Chess Federation (NCF)

INVITATION

With confirmed recognition from the International Chess Federation (FIDE) and the Nigerian Chess Federation (NCF), BrainChess Academy has the honour of inviting all eligible primary schools in Nigeria, and schools from federations across the African continent, to participate in the BrainChess Schools Chess Championship 2026.

“One continent. One vision. One move.”

DATE	VENUE	TIME
Saturday, 3rd October 2026	Celebr8 Centre HQ, Vori Close, Acme Road, Ogba, Ikeja, Lagos	8:00 AM (West African Time)

1. General

- 1.1** The BrainChess Schools Chess Championship 2026 (hereinafter referred to as BCSCC 2026) is the premier inter-primary school team chess competition organised by BrainChess Educational Services. The championship aims to promote chess development, sportsmanship, teamwork, and academic excellence among primary school students. BCSCC 2026 shall be conducted in accordance with the FIDE Laws of Chess and the official BrainChess Tournament Regulations. Where these Tournament Regulations provide specific provisions, they shall take precedence over any general regulations applicable to the competition.
- 1.2** Teams of chess academies, chess clubs, specialised sports schools, or those that combine players from more than one general educational institution are not allowed to participate.
- 1.3** Teams of non-profit schools or organisations are allowed, subject to Article 1.2 and the Organiser's discretion.
- 1.4** The tournament is open exclusively to primary schools. All participating teams must represent a primary school in Nigeria or the equivalent level of primary education in any other African country. Every player must be a currently enrolled primary school student at the school they represent and must satisfy all age and eligibility requirements set by the tournament organisers.
- 1.5** All players must be under the age of 12 on the day of the tournament. Any player who has attained the age of 12 before the commencement of the tournament shall not be eligible to participate.
- 1.6** Each school shall register one team consisting of five (5) players. Teams with fewer than five players (minimum four) must receive prior approval from the Organiser to participate. Only registered players shall be eligible to represent their school during the competition.
- 1.7** All members of the team must have a birth certificate.
- 1.8** Each team must include at least one boy and at least one girl. Where a team represents a “one gender only” general education institution, the Organiser must approve participation.
- 1.9** The Organiser will conduct eligibility checks to verify that the children are educated at the same school that is entering the tournament during the 2026-2027 school year. A team found to have an ineligible player will be subject to the following sanctions:
 - The team and its individual players will be disqualified from the competition and shall forfeit all prizes they have won.
 - The school will be banned from participating in the next edition of the competition. This ban may be extended by the Nigerian Chess Federation (NCF).

- The Organiser may report any of the parties involved to the NCF Ethics & Disciplinary Commission for further investigation, which may lead to further sanctions.

2. Registration

2.1 Registration period

- Registration opens on 6th August 2026.
- Registration closes on 18th September 2026.
- Entries received after the registration deadline may be declined at the sole discretion of the Organisers.

2.2 Registration fee

- Each participating school shall pay a non-refundable registration fee of ₦20,000 per team.
- A team's registration shall only be considered complete after payment has been confirmed and all required registration documents have been submitted.
- The registration fee is waived for all schools coming from outside Nigeria.

2.3 Required documents

Each participating school shall submit the following during registration:

- A completed official registration form.
- A list of the five (5) registered players.
- A copy of the birth certificate (or other proof of age approved by the Organisers) for each player.

2.4 Verification

- The Organisers reserve the right to verify the age and school enrolment of any registered player before or during the tournament.
- Any team found to have submitted false, misleading, or fraudulent information may be disqualified from the tournament without refund of the registration fee.

2.5 Changes to team list

- Player substitutions may be made up to the registration closing date.
- After the registration deadline, no additions or replacements shall be permitted except with the written approval of the Organisers under exceptional circumstances.

2.6 Acceptance of regulations

By submitting an entry, each participating school agrees to abide by the BrainChess Pan-African Schools Chess Championship 2026 Regulations, the FIDE Laws of Chess, and all decisions of the Organising Committee and Chief Arbiter.

3. Tournament Format

3.1 Competition system

The BrainChess Schools Team Championship 2026 shall be conducted as a seven (7)-round Swiss team tournament. Pairings shall be generated using the Swiss pairing system in accordance with the applicable FIDE Swiss Pairing Regulations.

3.2 Team composition

Each participating school shall be represented by one team of five (5) players. Each player shall be assigned to a board numbered Board 1 to Board 5.

3.3 Board order

- Teams shall submit their board order before the commencement of the tournament.
- The declared board order shall remain fixed for the entire tournament.
- Players shall compete only on their registered boards. Interchanging players between boards during the tournament is not permitted; any team found guilty of this forfeits round points.

3.4 Time control

The time control shall be 10 minutes with a 2-second increment per move (10+2) from move one. All games shall be played using digital chess clocks provided or approved by the Organisers.

3.5 Pairings

Pairings for each round shall be published by the Chief Arbiter. Once published, pairings shall be final unless amended by the Chief Arbiter to correct an administrative error.

3.6 Team match scoring

- Win – 1 point · Draw – ½ point · Loss – 0 points
- A team winning more boards in a match shall be awarded three (3) match points.
- A drawn team match shall award one (1) match point to each team.
- The losing team shall receive zero (0) match points.

3.7 Team rankings

Teams shall be ranked in the following order: (i) match points; (ii) board points; (iii) Buchholz or another approved FIDE team tie-break system, if required; (iv) any further tie-breaks determined by the Chief Arbiter in accordance with the Tournament Regulations.

3.8 Default and forfeit

- A team shall present its players before the start of each round.
- A player who fails to appear within the default time specified by the Chief Arbiter shall lose the game by forfeit.
- A team unable to field the required players may be subject to forfeiture of the affected board(s) or, where applicable, the entire match.

3.9 Authority

The Chief Arbiter shall supervise the conduct of the tournament and shall have the authority to interpret and apply these Regulations in accordance with the FIDE Laws of Chess. The Chief Arbiter's decisions during play shall be final.

4. Prizes

- Participation certificates for all players.
- All players on the first-, second-, and third-placed teams will receive gold, silver, and bronze medals, respectively, and other memorable gifts. The winner receives the championship trophy.
- The first-, second-, and third-placed players on each board will receive gold, silver, and bronze medals and certificates, respectively.

Team medals and prizes

Team Position	Laurels	Prize (₦)
1st Position	Winners Trophy	₦7,000,000
2nd Position	2nd Place Award	₦5,000,000
3rd Position	3rd Place Award	₦3,000,000
4th Position	—	₦1,000,000
5th Position	—	₦700,000
6th Position	—	₦500,000
7th Position	—	₦400,000
8th Position	—	₦300,000
9th Position	—	₦200,000
10th Position	—	₦100,000

Board medals and prizes

Medal	Board 1	Board 2	Board 3	Board 4	Board 5
Gold	₦100,000	₦100,000	₦100,000	₦100,000	₦100,000
Silver	₦50,000	₦50,000	₦50,000	₦50,000	₦50,000
Bronze	₦30,000	₦30,000	₦30,000	₦30,000	₦30,000

SPECIAL AWARD • Best International School

5. Schedule

Time	Duration	Programme
8:00 AM – 9:00 AM	1 hour	Arrival and Registration
9:00 AM – 9:15 AM	15 minutes	Opening Speech
9:15 AM – 10:00 AM	45 minutes	Round 1
10:00 AM – 10:45 AM	45 minutes	Round 2
10:45 AM – 11:30 AM	45 minutes	Round 3
11:30 AM – 12:15 PM	45 minutes	Round 4
12:15 PM – 12:55 PM	40 minutes	Break
12:55 PM – 1:40 PM	45 minutes	Round 5
1:40 PM – 2:25 PM	45 minutes	Round 6
2:25 PM – 3:10 PM	45 minutes	Round 7
3:10 PM – 3:55 PM	45 minutes	Result Verification

Time	Duration	Programme
3:55 PM – 5:00 PM	1 hour 5 minutes	Closing Remarks, Ceremony, Awards & Prizes

6. Participation Support for Schools Outside Nigeria

To encourage continental participation and strengthen collaboration among schools across Africa through chess, the Organisers may provide limited participation support to eligible school delegations, subject to availability, approval, and the terms outlined below.

6.1 Complimentary tournament registration

The tournament registration fee shall be automatically waived for all eligible school teams participating from outside Nigeria. Confirmation of participation is contingent upon participating schools providing satisfactory documentary evidence of the responsibilities outlined in Section 6.4 within the timeline communicated by the Organisers. Failure to provide the required documentation within the stipulated timeframe may result in cancellation of the school's registration or reallocation of its slot to another eligible school.

6.2 Accommodation support

Subject to approval and availability, the Organisers may provide complimentary accommodation for a maximum of seven (7) delegates per school, comprising five (5) registered players and two (2) officially designated chaperones. Accommodation support shall be provided for two (2) nights only – the night preceding the tournament and the night of the tournament – with check-out on the morning following the tournament.

6.3 Airport reception and local transportation

Subject to approval and availability, the Organisers may provide airport reception and pick-up upon arrival in Nigeria, transportation between the official accommodation and the tournament venue, and transportation from the official accommodation to the airport upon departure. Participation support under Sections 6.2 and 6.3 is available only to a limited number of approved delegations and is provided solely at the discretion of the Organisers.

Schools wishing to be considered for accommodation and transportation support must submit a formal request via email to partnerships@brainchessacademyng.com. Applications will be assessed on a rolling basis, and priority will be given to schools that apply early and are able to demonstrate, with appropriate documentation, that they have secured or are able to secure the items listed under their responsibilities in Section 6.4. The Organisers reserve the right to determine the adequacy of all documentation submitted and to make the final decision regarding the allocation of participation support.

6.4 Responsibilities of participating schools

All participating schools shall remain responsible for:

- International and domestic airfare to and from Nigeria.
- Obtaining valid passports, visas (where applicable), and all other required travel documents.
- Travel and medical insurance.
- Personal expenses not expressly covered by the Organisers.

7. Players and Coaches Conduct

7.1 Each team shall wear a school uniform.

- 7.2** No players with inappropriate clothing (e.g., dirty, ripped) shall be allowed in the playing area.
- 7.4** The players are expected to cooperate with the media.
- 7.5** By participating in the tournament, all players (and their legal representatives, in the case of minors) acknowledge and agree that the Organiser has the right to photograph, record, and livestream the event, including all participants, accompanying persons and others, without the need for any additional consent or compensation. The Organiser may use the resulting photos, videos, and other media materials for promotional, educational, informational, or any other purposes across all media platforms (including print, digital, and social media), both during and after the tournament, without any restrictions.
- 7.6** The Organiser reserves the right to deny accreditation or access to the event to any accompanying person or non-playing captain if credible concerns regarding their eligibility or background arise.
- 7.7** All participating teams are fully responsible for ensuring compliance with all entry, health, vaccination and transit requirements applicable to Nigeria and any transit countries along their route of travel. In particular, participants travelling from or transiting through countries designated by the World Health Organisation (WHO) as yellow fever risk areas may be required to present a valid Yellow Fever Vaccination Certificate upon entry into Nigeria.

8. Visa Information

- 8.1** ECOWAS countries (West Africa) – citizens of countries such as Ghana, Benin, Togo, Liberia, Sierra Leone, The Gambia, Senegal, Côte d'Ivoire, and other ECOWAS member states generally do not need a visa to enter Nigeria for short visits. They can enter with a valid passport or an ECOWAS Travel Certificate, subject to immigration checks.
- 8.2** Non-ECOWAS countries (outside West Africa) – citizens of countries outside ECOWAS (such as Kenya, South Africa, Uganda, Rwanda, Ethiopia, etc.) would require authorisation before travelling. Apply for a Nigerian visa (or Visa on Arrival, if eligible) well in advance. An invitation letter from your organisation, proof of the event, accommodation details, and return travel plans are commonly required.
- 8.3** Participants who require a visa to enter Nigeria must submit the necessary personal data no later than 1st September 2026 to receive an official invitation letter.
- 8.4** The Organiser will provide visa support in the form of official invitation letters from the Host Federation for all duly registered participants and, where possible, for accompanying persons. However, the responsibility for securing visa appointments with embassies, obtaining entry visas to the host country, and arranging any required transit visas lies solely with the participating teams.

9. How to Register

Visit our website to complete your school's registration:

<https://brainchessacademyng.com/registration/>

For registration and partnership enquiries, contact
partnerships@brainchessacademyng.com