



# UCF Pre-League Rapid & Blitz Open Chess Championship



**KASPAROV**  
CHESS FOUNDATION AFRICA

26<sup>th</sup> to 27<sup>th</sup> May 2018

Kampala, Uganda

***“Including a Q&A session and a FIDE Rated Blitz Tournament with participation by former World Chess Championship Challenger GM Nigel Short!”***

## 1. Invitation

1.1 This is the official invitation to the UCF Pre-League Rapid & Blitz Open Chess Championship which will be held in Kampala, Uganda from 26<sup>th</sup> - 27<sup>th</sup> May 2018. The event is organized by the Uganda Chess Federation (UCF) and sponsored by Kasparov Chess Foundation Africa.

1.2 The event launches the UCF league season and during this event player transfers and consultations with all stake-holders to make the national league bigger and better are welcome.

## 2. Playing venue

2.1 The playing venue is the Forest Cottages located on Naguru hill in Bukoto, Kampala.



Dining hall



Playing hall



Cottages





### 3. Format, Rules and Regulations

- 3.1 The tournament is open to all players and will consist of a 10 round Open Rapid tournament as well as a 10 Round Blitz tournament for which a total of 60 players will qualify. Both events will be rated by both FIDE and the URS™.
- 3.2 Both sections will be played according to the Swiss Pairing System with a total of 10 rounds for the rapid event and 10 rounds for the blitz event. Both tournament will be played as single section events but will offer prizes for the best open, female and junior participants.
- 3.3 A maximum of 250 players can be accommodated in the open rapid tournament. Preference will be given to players who have a FIDE and / or URS™ Rating.
- 3.4 Local players who are unrated and who do not have a FIDE ID are encouraged to enter as early as possible to avoid disappointment.
- 3.5 A total of 60 players will qualify from the Rapid to participate in the Blitz tournament. The 60 qualifiers for the Blitz tournament will consist of the top 40 finishes in the Rapid event as well as the top 10 ladies and the top 10 junior participants under the age of 18.
- 3.6 Foreign players who do not have an official FIDE ID must request their local chess federations to create one for them before the tournament commences. Official FIDE Rapid and Blitz chess ratings will be used for pairing purposes and URS™ Ratings will be used where players do not have a FIDE rating.
- 3.7 The time control for the rapid games will be 15minutes per player with an increment of 10 seconds per move starting from move 1.
- 3.8 The time control for the blitz games will be 5 minutes per player with an increment of 3 seconds per move starting from move 1.
- 3.9 FIDE Regulations for Rapid and Blitz Chess will apply as per the FIDE Handbook.

### 4. Registration

- 4.1 Players wishing to participate are required to register by no later than 8 pm on the 20<sup>th</sup> May 2018 (registration deadline). Any player who registers after this date will be admitted solely at the organizers discretion.
- 4.2 Players with internet access are asked to [register online](#) as early as possible to aid with tournament preparations.
- 4.3 Manual registrations can also be sent to [ugandachess@yahoo.com](mailto:ugandachess@yahoo.com). Where registrations are emailed they must include the surname/s, first name/s, FIDE ID number, FIDE rating, FIDE title, and passport number of each player.



- 4.4 The venue capacity is 250 players and therefore each UCF registered club is limited to bulk entries of no more than 5 players per club. Numbers can be increased through requests to the organizers however.
- 4.5 The first 200 entrants will be automatically registered and thereafter a waitlist approach will be implemented. Players are therefore advised to register early to avoid disappointment.

**5. Entry Fees**

- 5.1 Entry to the event is **free of charge** but priority will be given to players that have paid their annual UCF registration fees of 5,000 UGX (Students / Juniors) and 10,000 UGX (Adults). Foreign Nationals that are not based in Uganda are exempted from paying UCF registration fees, but any donations / contributions would be welcome.
- 5.2 Notwithstanding the fact that entry is free, **all players must register in advance** to guarantee a place in the field.

**6. Travel and accommodation**

- 6.1 All participants are responsible for their own travel arrangements. Bus / Taxi transfers from Entebbe airport to official hotels can be arranged for foreign players by contacting the Uganda Chess Federation at [ugandachess@yahoo.com](mailto:ugandachess@yahoo.com). Players who wish to use this service must send their flight details before the 24<sup>th</sup> May 2018.
- 6.2 Uganda boasts several world class hotels and several affordable motels and Inns. The average accommodation cost ranges from US\$ 30 per person per night to US\$ 75 per person per night. Hotel bookings can be arranged upon request to the Uganda Chess Federation and hotels will be availed on first come first serve basis.

**7. Tournament Schedule**

The tournament schedule is as follows:

Date	Activity	Time
Saturday 26 <sup>th</sup> May 2018	Opening ceremony	09:00 hrs
	Open Rapid Rounds 1 – 3	10:00 - 13:00 hrs
	Lunch Break	13:00 - 14:00 hrs
	Open Rapid Rounds 4 – 7	14:00 - 18:00 hrs
	<b>Open question and answer session with GM Nigel Short</b>	<b>18:00 - 19:00 hrs</b>
Sunday 27 <sup>th</sup> May 2018	Open Rapid Rounds 8 – 10	09:00 - 12:00 hrs
	Prize Giving and Lunch Break	12:00 - 14:00 hrs
	10 Round Blitz (for qualifiers)	14:00 - 17:00 hrs



## 8. Dress Code

- 8.1 All players are required to be decently dressed and therefore Shorts, Slippers, Sunglasses, Sports Caps and revealing attire are not permitted.

## 9. Prizes and awards

- 9.1 All players and arbiters will receive certificates to commemorate their participation.
- 9.2 The top three places in every category will be awarded medals and the winner of the open as well as the best lady will also receive a trophy.
- 9.3 Prize money totaling 4,500,000 UGX will be paid in cash. No taxes will be deducted from any prizes awarded. The prize distribution will be as follows:

#	Sections	Rapid	Blitz	Total
<b>1</b>	<b>Open</b>			
	1 <sup>st</sup> prize	750,000/-	750,000/-	1,500,000/-
	2 <sup>nd</sup> prize	500,000/-	500,000/-	1,000,000/-
	3 <sup>rd</sup> prize	250,000/-	250,000/-	500,000/-
	<b>Sub total</b>	<b>1,500,000/-</b>	<b>1,500,000/-</b>	<b>3,000,000/-</b>
<b>2</b>	<b>Ladies</b>			
	1 <sup>st</sup> prize	500,000/-	250,000/-	750,000/-
	2 <sup>nd</sup> prize	300,000/-	-	300,000/-
	3 <sup>rd</sup> prize	200,000/-	-	200,000/-
	<b>Sub total</b>	<b>1,000,000/-</b>	<b>250,000/-</b>	<b>1,250,000/-</b>
<b>3</b>	<b>Other prizes</b>			
	Best senior 50+	100,000/-	-	100,000/-
	Best Junior Open U18	50,000/-	50,000/-	100,000/-
	Best Junior Girl U18	50,000/-	-	50,000/-
	<b>Sub total</b>	<b>200,000/-</b>	<b>50,000/-</b>	<b>250,000/-</b>
<b>Total</b>				<b>4,500,000/-</b>

- 9.4 **A Bonus "Bounty" Prize of 500,000 UGX will be awarded to any player who manages to defeat GM Nigel Short in an individual encounter in the blitz tournament.**

## 10. Chief Arbiter

- 10.1 The Chief Arbiter and his assistants for the tournament will be appointed by the president of the Uganda Chess Federation.



## 11. Appeals

- 11.1 Any protest regarding a decision taken by the Chief Arbiter or any of his assistants must be submitted in writing to the Chairman of the Appeals Committee no later than 5 minutes after the completion of the round in which the affected game is played.
- 11.2 A written protest must be accompanied with the sum of 10,000 UGX as a deposit from the signatory. The deposit must be handed to the Chairman of the appeals committee. If the appeal is granted, the sum shall be returned immediately. If the appeal is found to be baseless by the appeals committee, the deposit will be forfeited to the UCF.
- 11.3 The members of the Appeals Committee will be announced before the start of the first round.

## 12. Visas

- 12.1 Any foreign based participant that requires a visa to visit Uganda must send a copy of their passport (pages with the photograph and main data) before the 20th May 2018.
- 12.2 A digital scan of the photo of each player and any accompanying person that may require a visa must be sent by email to the organizing committee at [ugandachess@yahoo.com](mailto:ugandachess@yahoo.com).
- 12.3 The Tournament Director will supply official letters of invitation for players that require this upon receipt of all details of the participants requesting such letters.

## 13. Weather

- 13.1 In May, the weather in Kampala can be rather fresh and the temperature is typically around 27°C with light rains possible.

## 14. Electricity

- 14.1 The standard voltage in Uganda is 240 volts

## 15. Exchange rate

The local currency is the Ugandan Shilling (UGX). The current exchange rate at the time of publishing is US\$1 = 3700 shillings (UGX)



## 16. Organizer information

The tournament is organized by the Uganda Chess Federation. Please direct any queries or related to the tournament organizer.

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The Uganda Chess Federation reserves the right to admission and any changes will be communicated.

We look forward to welcoming our chess friends to Kampala for the tournament!