

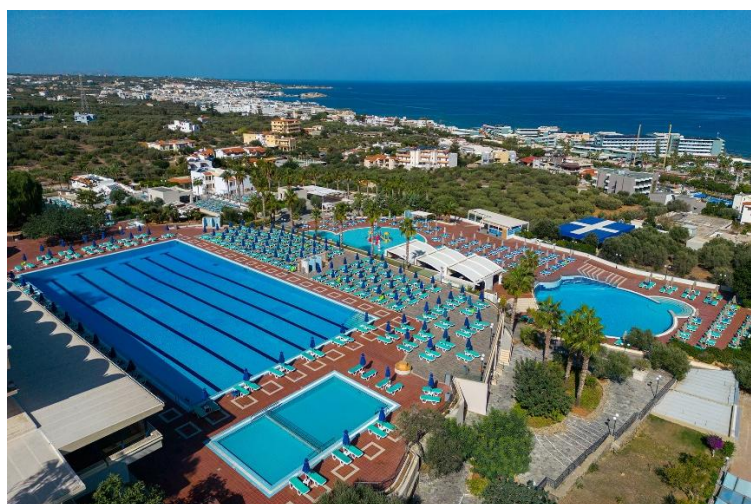


EUROPEAN YOUTH CHESS CHAMPIONSHIPS

Under 8, 10, 12, 14, 16, 18

CRETE/GREECE 2 TO 13 November 2026

Royal & Imperial Belvedere Resort Hersonissos, Crete (****)



1. Invitation

This is the official invitation to all European National Chess Federations for the EUROPEAN YOUTH CHESS CHAMPIONSHIPS 2026 under 8, 10, 12, 14, 16, 18 organized in Hersonissos, Creta (Greece) from 2nd November (arrivals) to 13th November 2026 (departures).

2. Participation

2.1. Each federation can register one (1) player in each of the categories - under 8, 10, 12, 14, 16 and 18 (open and girls), the maximum number of twelve (12) players ("invited players").

2.2. The players placed 1-3 in the European Youth Chess Championship 2025 will have the personal right to participate in the tournament in the corresponding age-category or a higher age-category, if they fulfill the conditions that they have not reached the age of 8, 10, 12, 14, 16 or 18 years, respectively, by January 1st, 2026. This privilege may be exercised once exclusively in the subsequent year following the year of the qualification.

2.3. In order to ensure proper tournament standards, all players must register through their national federations before 21st August 2026 (registration deadline).

2.4. Each federation can register an unlimited number of extra players.

2.5. According to the ECU Rules (Article B.14.5.1) for youth tournaments the players are obliged to stay in one of the official hotels.

Access to playing areas, venues and the hotels will be allowed only to people accredited by the organizer.

3. Fees

3.1. In accordance with the ECU regulations, the ECU entry fee of 65 EUR is required for each invited player and player with a personal right; and 130 EUR for each extra player.

3.2. According to the ECU regulations, federations are obliged to make the payment of the ECU entry fee on the ECU bank account before the start of the competition. If the entry fee does not reach the ECU bank account by the end of the second round, these participants will not be paired in subsequent rounds.

ECU entry fee must be paid in the official ECU bank account:

Bank: UBS Group AG

Bank address: Bahnhofstrasse 45, Postfach - 8098 Zürich

Bank SWIFT code: UBSWCHZH80A

IBAN Account Number: CH03 0024 6246 1903 5360 X

Account Holder: European Chess Union

3.3. The Registration fee is 100 EUR per extra player and accompanying persons. It includes accreditation and transportation from / to Heraklion airport (IATA code: HER) and Belvedere hotel only on 2nd November and 13th November. The registration period ends on 21st August 2026 (application deadline). Late registration fee, if the late registration is accepted by the organizing committee, is 200 EUR per participant.

3.4. Invited players, players with personal rights and delegation chiefs will be accommodated with full board at one of the official hotels in double rooms or in triple rooms. Free lodging and boarding will be provided from 2nd November to 13th November. Any additional overnights will be charged as at article 4.1. Booking for these rooms must be made and sent to the organizer no later than 21st August 2026. The booking is considered to be assured only after the advance deposit is paid as per the proforma invoice instructions.

3.5. The registration fee for invited players and players with personal rights is 150 euros.

3.6. The registration fee for delegation chiefs is 100 euros.

3.7. The registration form must be filled in and sent by the national federations. Invited players, players with personal rights and delegation chiefs who are registered after the registration deadline of 21st August 2026 may not be accepted by the Organizing Committee.

3.8. Players who are not so accredited will not be included in the draw and their entry fees will be forfeited. Access to playing areas, venues and the hotels will be allowed only to people accredited by the organizer.

3.9. All the above-mentioned payments are non-refundable if the booking is cancelled.

4. Accommodation and boarding / registrations

4.1. Official hotel and playing venue of the championship.

Bookings are possible only through the Organizing Committee.

OFFICIAL HOTEL: Royal & Imperial Belvedere Resort Hersonissos, Crete (****).

- Full board included: breakfast, lunch, and dinner daily.
- Soft Drinks/Beer or Wine/Water during meals in restaurant.
- Free Wi-Fi, use of hotel swimming pools and hotel parking.
- All taxes (including Municipality and Tourism Tax).

Prices per person per day:

Price in quadruple occupancy room

62 euros per person

Price in double occupancy room

85 euros per person

Price in triple occupancy room

69 euros per person

Price in single occupancy room

116 euros per person

4.2. The deadline for registrations and bookings is 21st August 2026, together with a 30% deposit for accommodation package. The deposit payments shall be sent to the organizing agency's bank account, free of bank charges. Pro-forma payment instructions, including bank account details of the organizing agency and payment deadlines, will be provided upon each confirmed application.

4.3. Full payment for the hotel accommodation of participants and accompanying persons must be completed. before the start of the 1st Round. Extra nights can be requested in advance and, upon availability, can be charged at the same rate.

4.4. All the above-mentioned payments are non-refundable if the booking is cancelled.



5. Tournament schedule

Day	Date	Hours	Activity
Monday	2 nd November		Arrivals
Tuesday	3 rd November	10:00	Technical meeting
Tuesday	3 rd November	14:30	Opening Ceremony
Tuesday	3 rd November	15:00	Round 1
Wednesday	4 th November	15:00	Round 2
Thursday	5 th November	15:00	Round 3
Friday	6 th November	15:00	Round 4
Saturday	7 th November	15:00	Round 5
Sunday	8 th November	Free day	
Monday	9 th November	15:00	Round 6
Tuesday	10 th November	15:00	Round 7
Wednesday	11 th November	15:00	Round 8
Thursday	12 th November	14:00	Round 9
Thursday	12 th November	21:00	Closing Ceremony
Friday	13 th November		Departures

6. Rules and regulations

The ECU Book of Rules should be followed.

The tournament will be played by a 9-rounds Swiss system. National ratings will not be taken into consideration for pairings. The time rate will be 90 minutes with an addition of 30 seconds per move starting from move one.

Default time for all 9 rounds is 15 minutes.

The ECU anti-cheating guidelines and the ECU Fair Play Code are valid for all the European Championships and all players, arbiters, organisers & participants shall follow these regulations. During the competition, random AC inspections are possible.

7. Appeals procedure

Appeals Procedure Protests against decisions of the Chief Arbiter must be submitted in written form to the Chairman of the appeals committee within one hour after the end of the respective game. The protest must be accompanied with the sum of 200 €, as a deposit from the signatory. If the appeal is granted, the sum shall be returned immediately. If the appeal is refused, the deposit is forfeited to the European Chess Union. The appeal has to be lodged by the player. The decisions of the Appeals Committee are final.

8. Scoring and tie-breaking system

8.1. The score in each game is 1 for a win, $\frac{1}{2}$ for a draw and 0 for a lost game.

8.2. Tie-breaking:

The order of players that finish with the same number of points shall be determined by application of the following tie-breaking procedures in sequence, proceeding from (a) to (b) to (c) to (d) to (e) the extent required:

- (a) Results of direct encounters between the tied players (applies only if all tied players have played each other),
- (b) Buchholz Cut 1,
- (c) Buchholz,
- (d) The greater number of games played with black,
- (e) The Greater number of wins.



9. Arbiters and Appeals committee

The names of the Chief Arbiter and the Chairman of Appeals committee will be published not later than 25th October 2026.

Names of other arbiters and members of the Appeals committee will be announced during the technical meeting.

10. Prizes

10.1. The first three players in each group will be awarded medals; the first five players in each group will be awarded cups and valuable prizes.

10.2. Each participant will receive presents.

10.3. The total amount of all prizes and presents will be 20.000 EUR at the minimum.

10.4. Diplomas will send to the first five players in each group in electronic format after the end of the event .

11. Airport transfer

The organizer arranges the transfer for participants and accompanying persons from the Heraklion International Airport “Nikos Kazantzakis” IATA: HER to the official hotel only on the arrival day (2nd November) and back on the departure day (13th November).

12. Entry visas (if needed) and health insurance

Requests for visa invitation letters, if needed, shall be included in the application form and submitted to the organizer before the application deadline. These requests must be processed earlier by e-mail no later than 21st August 2026. The Organizers are not responsible in case the applicants fail to meet all the requirements to obtain a VISA to enter Greece.

All delegations and participants shall obtain their own medical insurance policy, valid in Greece, covering medical expenses and accident insurance. The organizers will provide emergency & first-aid medical assistance during the games of each round.

13. Applications and information

Contact person: IO Nikos Kalesis

email: chess.at.events@gmail.com

Tournament website: eycc2026.com