

2024 Saint Louis Masters Regulations

The Saint Louis Masters is a 9-round Swiss System tournament featuring \$100,000 in prizes. This event will accommodate up to 60 internationally-ranked players from around the world, competing over 5 days in a classical Swiss System tournament. The aim of this invitational tournament is to provide titled chess players with an opportunity to compete against one another, vying for norms and \$100,000 in prizes.

1. Schedule of Events

- 1.1. **Dates:** The Saint Louis Masters shall be held at the Chase Park Plaza Hotel, Maryland Ballroom, December 2 - 8, 2024.
- 1.2. **Timing:** Each round shall begin at the start times listed in the Schedule of Events attached hereto (the "Schedule of Events").
- 1.3. **Complete the Event:** By registering, players commit to participating in every game of the tournament unless excused due to approved byes, medical injury or family emergencies.

2. Format

- 2.1. **Pairing Method:** 9-round Swiss System tournament.
- 2.2. **Composition:** The goal is to establish the Saint Louis Masters as a Super Swiss tournament, registered to qualify for the FIDE Circuit. Accordingly, we will strive to ensure that this event meets the requirements outlined in the FIDE Circuit Regulations.¹
- 2.3. **Time Control:** Game in 90 minutes, with a 30-second increment per move (G/90; +30).
- 2.4. **Scoring:** Standard 1 - ½ - 0 scoring shall apply for a win, draw, or loss respectively.
- 2.5. **Default Time:** The default time for each game shall be 30 minutes.
- 2.6. **Byes:** Players may request a maximum of two half-point byes at the time of registration. No modifications will be permitted after registration is completed. Full-point byes may be unavoidable in rounds with an odd number of players.
- 2.7. **Rating:** The event shall be submitted to FIDE, US Chess and URS for rating. US Chess membership is required, but fees may be waived for GMs and foreign IMs.

3. Registration

- 3.1. **Eligibility:** The Saint Louis Masters is an invitational tournament. Participants must meet all eligibility requirements set by FIDE and US Chess. All participants must be members in good standing with US Chess.

¹ https://handbook.fide.com/files/handbook/Regulations_for_FIDE_Circuit_2024.pdf

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3.2. **Maximum Number of Players:** The maximum number of players is 60.

4. Prizes

4.1. **Distribution:** The total prize fund shall be \$100,000, distributed as follows:

2024 Saint Louis Masters Prize Fund			
Place	Prize	Place	Prize
1	\$20,000	13	\$1,500
2	\$15,000	14	\$1,000
3	\$8,000	15	\$750
4	\$7,000	Under 2600 - 1	\$4,000
5	\$6,000	Under 2600 - 2	\$2,600
6	\$5,000	Under 2600 - 3	\$1,200
7	\$4,000	Under 2500 - 1	\$3,400
8	\$3,250	Under 2500 - 2	\$2,000
9	\$2,500	Under 2500 - 3	\$1,000
10	\$2,250	Under 2400 - 1	\$3,250
11	\$2,000	Under 2400 - 2	\$1,750
12	\$1,750	Under 2400 - 3	\$800
\$100,000			

4.2. **No Playoffs:** Players tied for any position shall share the prize money equally among all tied players. Players tied for first at the end of the event shall be declared co-champions.

4.3. **Prize Money:** Prizes shall be awarded based on the final standings and made payable within 30 days of the completion of the Event. All players must complete the appropriate tax paperwork and payment questionnaire before payment will be made.

5. Conduct

5.1. **Conduct:** Participants are required to maintain a professional demeanor throughout this competition and adhere to the US Chess Code of Ethics, US Chess Safe Play Policy, and FIDE Laws and Regulations. Any violations of these policies or established decorum will prompt the Saint Louis Chess Club to take necessary actions. This may involve reporting the incident to FIDE and US Chess, potentially affecting the player's eligibility for future invitations.

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- 5.2. Spectators:** Limited spectators shall be allowed in the playing area.
- 5.3. No Personal Items:** No bags, purses, cell phones, watches, wallets, pens, or any other unauthorized devices or personal items are permitted in the tournament area without prior approval from the Chief Arbiter. Violation of this policy will result in forfeit of the round and may lead to expulsion from the event.
- 5.4. Scanning & Game Screening:** Players may be subject to electronic scanning before, during or after any game. Games will be submitted for analysis and review to further ensure fair play.

6. Dates

2024 Saint Louis Masters			
Day	Date	Time	Event
Monday	12/2/24		Player Arrival
Tuesday	12/3/24	9:30 AM	Players Meeting & Pairings
		10:00 AM	Round 1
		4:00 PM	Round 2
Wednesday	12/4/24	10:00 AM	Round 3
		4:00 PM	Round 4
Thursday	12/5/24	10:00 AM	Round 5
		4:00 PM	Round 6
Friday	12/6/24	10:00 AM	Round 7
		4:00 PM	Round 8
Saturday	12/7/24	10:00 AM	Round 9
		2:00 PM	Awards Presentation (following last game)
Sunday	12/8/24		Departure