
Tournament Rules in World Championships

2005-07-20
Sports Commission

This is a suggestion of tournament rules for the following championships:

- Individual World Championships (AT)
- Qualification to Individual World Championships (QT)
- Open Tournament at World Championships (BT)
- Individual Women World Championships (WT)
- Team World Championships (TWC)
- Youth World Championships (YWC)

The main parts of below have been decided on earlier General Assemblies (see footnote references in the text). Some details are though new.

The idea of these tournament rules is to set a few guidelines for World Championships and the organisers. Tournament rules that the organisers do not find in detail below, the organisers can decide themselves. If there will be any questions of interpretation in below rules, the Sports Commission has the right to interpret the rules.

Changes of below rules can be made by Central Committee. Exceptions are the purpose of the tournaments and the rules regarding places in or qualification to the AT and QT, rules which can only be changed by General Assembly.

Individual World Championships (AT)¹

Purpose: To determine the individual World Champion every second year.

When: To be played in July/August every odd year.

How: 12 players are playing Round Robin system in 11 rounds.

Tie breaking rules:

1. Number of game points
2. Buchholz coefficient
3. Berger coefficient
4. Personal match between the players
5. Number of wins
6. If all criteria's are the same, the players share the places, except when precise determination of places is required - in that case an extra match with 20 minutes per player is played (in case of 2 involved players). If the extra matches are to be played between 3 or more involved players with same tie break criteria's, the referee will decide the time limit. If the tie was not broken, there will be

¹ Extra General Assembly (EGA) 1992, § 5.

additional matches played until the tie is broken. The referee decides the time limit for those matches.

Who: The 12 players are selected from:

- World Champion from previous AT, personal place. If the World Champion can not take part, the personal place will be changed to a national place.²
- Number 2-7 from previous AT, national places. Maximum three national places for one member country and any other country only one national place. If there are more than these numbers of players from one nation, the place will go to number eight in AT and so on up to last place in AT.³ If all 6 national places can not be given out because of too few nationalities of the AT players, the remaining place/-s goes to the next QT.
- The organizer has the right of one national place if the organizer has no place from above criteria's.⁴
- The remaining places are decided by the international qualification tournament (QT) played just before AT.⁵ Also cancellations of any kind will be filled by QT.

Times: Thinking times are 2 hours or slightly more per player, without control moves. Extra time, 30 minutes per 30 moves continuously, or similar.

It is not possible for a country to sell or give away a national place in championships.⁶

Qualification to Individual World Championships (QT)

Purpose: To determine 4 or more places to AT depending on places available according to AT regulations above.

When: To be played in July/August every odd year, just before the AT.

How: Seven rounds Swiss system is used.

Tie breaking rules:

1. Number of game points
2. Buchholz coefficient
3. Berger coefficient
4. Personal match between the players
5. Number of wins
6. If all criteria's are the same, the players share the places, except when precise determination of places is required - in that case an extra match with 20 minutes

² General Assembly (GA) 1993, § 16.

³ GA 1995, § 12 c and d.

⁴ GA 1999, Part 2, § 10 c.

⁵ GA 1995, § 12 b. Five first from QT will play in AT. GA 1999, Part 2, § 10 d. Number of places from QT might be four depending on organizers right. Note: 4 or 5 players are the minimum proceeding from QT to AT.

⁶ EGA 1996, 2 May in S:t Petersburg, § 6.

per player is played (in case of 2 involved players). If the extra matches are to be played between 3 or more involved players with same tie break criteria's, the referee will decide the time limit. If the tie was not broken, there will be additional matches played until the tie is broken. The referee decides the time limit for those matches.

Who: All players who have the right to take part:

- The top 20 players on RIF official rating list by May 15⁷, among players who have played at least 10 rated games since one year back, personal places.⁸
- The three first places from BT in previous World Championships two years earlier, personal places.⁹
- All RIF member countries have the right to participate with up to 3 national places, minus the national place/-s used in AT.¹⁰
- All non RIF member countries have the right to participate with one national place, if the national place is not used in AT.¹¹
- Might be extra national places in QT for a nation which had more than maximum number of national places in AT. This/these place/-s is/are translated to QT place/-s.¹²
- All players from previous AT have personal places in QT.¹³
- The organization country has the right to make the number of participants even by adding further one more player to the QT participation list.¹⁴

Times: At least 60 minutes per player, and some kind of extra time.

Open Tournament at World Championships (BT)

Purpose: To determine 3 personal places to next WCs QT.¹⁵

When: To be played in July/August every odd year, at the same time as AT.

How: Nine rounds Swiss system is used.

Tie breaking rules:

1. Number of game points

⁷ GA 2003, § 19. First rating period of the year to be ended the 15th of May.

⁸ GA 1997, § 13 (However, here it says 1st o May – 30th o April). GA 1999, Part 2, § 10 b. This decision was not 100% clear about exactly which 20 players were chosen. However, the above mentioned rule is now suggested to be the valid one.

⁹ GA 1995, § 12 a.

¹⁰ GA 1995, § 12 c. See also EGA 1992, § 5 g.

¹¹ GA 1995, § 12 c. See also EGA 1992, § 5 g.

¹² GA 1995, § 12 d.

¹³ New suggestion from Japan.

¹⁴ What I have seen so far there is no supporting rule for this. However, it has been used in WC's, for instance Vadstena 2003.

¹⁵ GA 1995, § 12 a.

2. Buchholz coefficient
3. Berger coefficient
4. Personal match between the players
5. Number of wins
6. If all criteria's are the same, the players share the places, except when precise determination of places is required - in that case an extra match with 20 minutes per player is played (in case of 2 involved players). If the extra matches are to be played between 3 or more involved players with same tie break criteria's, the referee will decide the time limit. If the tie was not broken, there will be additional matches played until the tie is broken. The referee decides the time limit for those matches.

Who: Open tournament. All players can take part.

Times: At least 60 minutes per player, and some kind of extra time.

Individual Women World Championships (WT)

Purpose: To determine the individual Woman World Champion every second year.

When: To be played in July/August every odd year at the same time as AT.

How: Nine rounds Swiss system is used.

Tie breaking rules:

1. Number of game points
2. Buchholz coefficient
3. Berger coefficient
4. Personal match between the players
5. Number of wins
6. If all criteria's are the same, the players share the places, except when precise determination of places is required - in that case an extra match with 20 minutes per player is played (in case of 2 involved players). If the extra matches are to be played between 3 or more involved players with same tie break criteria's, the referee will decide the time limit. If the tie was not broken, there will be additional matches played until the tie is broken. The referee decides the time limit for those matches.

Who: All member countries have the right to be represented by maximum 5 players, and non members with one player. The current Woman World Champion has personal place.¹⁶

Times: Thinking times are 2 hours or slightly more per player, without control moves.
Extra time, 30 minutes per 30 moves continuously, or similar.

¹⁶ GA 1999, Part 2, § 16

Team World Championships (TWC)

- Purpose:** To determine the World Champion team every second year.
When: To be played in April/May every even year.
How: Played according to Round Robin system, dividing the teams into group/-s depending of number of participating teams. The Round Robin system can be combined with some kind of cup system. One team has four players plus one reserve player.

Tie breaking rules:

1. Number of game points
2. Team match points
3. Buchholz coefficient (calculated on game points)
4. Berger coefficient (calculated on game points)
5. Personal match between teams
6. Result of 1st table
7. Result of 2nd table
8. Result of 3rd table
9. If all criteria's are the same, the teams will share the places, except when precise determination of places is required - in that case an extra game with 20 minutes per player is played between the 1st table players (in case of 2 involved teams). If the extra matches are to be played between 3 or more involved teams with same tie break criteria's, the referee will decide the time limit of the games between the 1st table players. If the tie was not broken, there will be additional matches played between the 1st table players until the tie is broken. The referee decides the time limit for those matches.

Who: Below, the teams that are allowed to take part:

- The previous TWC champions generate one country team place
- One team from each country
- The organizing country has the right to participate with one extra team regardless of how many teams they have from above.

Times: Thinking times are 2 hours or slightly more per player, without control moves.
Extra time, 30 minutes per 30 moves continuously, or similar.

Youth World Championships (YWC)

- Purpose:** To determine the individual Youth World Champions every second year.
When: To be played in July/August every even year.
How: In 6 different groups:
- Group A: Boys, who are at least 18 years old or will become 18 years old during the same year as when the competition is held, and not more than 23 years old. If

- player become 24 years old during the same year as when the competition is held he can not participate.
- Group B: Boys, who are at least 13 years old or will become 13 years old during the same year as when the competition is held, and not more than 17 years old. If player become 18 years old during the same year as when the competition is held he can only participate in group A.
 - Group C: Boys, who are younger than 13 years old. If player become 13 years old during the same year as when the competition is held he can only participate in group B (or A).
 - Group D: Girls, who are at least 18 years old or will become 18 years old during the same year as when the competition is held, and not more than 23 years old. If player become 24 years old during the same year as when the competition is held she can not participate.
 - Group E: Girls, who are at least 13 years old or will become 13 years old during the same year as when the competition is held, and not more than 17 years old. If player become 18 years old during the same year as when the competition is held she can participate in group D (or A and B).
 - Group F: Girls, who are younger than 13 years old. If player become 13 years old during the same year as when the competition is held she can participate in group E (D, A, B are also possible).

Boys have right to play in older group with same sex. Girls can play in any group what is not younger of their age limit. Playing system is depending on number of participants.

Tie-breaking rules:

1. Number of game points
2. Buchholz coefficient
3. Berger coefficient
4. Personal match between the players
5. Number of wins
6. If all criteria's are the same, the players share the places, except top three places. If players will share top three places, extra game(s) will be used. The time for extra game(s) will be decided by the judge's council.

Who:

- All RIF member countries have the right to participate with 5 players in each group. The organising country has the right to increase limits to 10 players per country (but the limit must be the same for all RIF member countries).
- All other nations have the right to participate with 2 players in each group. The organising country has the right to increase other countries limits to 10 players per country (but the limit must be the same for all other countries).
- The organising country has the right to participate with 10 players in each group.

Times: At least 60 minutes per player, and some kind of extra time.