

Tournament rules of the 36th open of Geraardsbergen 2021

- If the texts or even the nuances in the languages of the regulations differ, the rules in Dutch apply.
- The tournament will take place from Sunday 08/08/2021 to Thursday 12/08/2021.
- This edition of the open of Geraardsbergen will take place on five different locations. The first three locations all border the Market, a central square in the city. The other two playing locations are located respectively 200 and 350 metres from the Market.
 - The Preacher (Markt 9): the first 6 boards will be livestreamed.
 - Town Hall (Markt 47)
 - Liberale kring (Markt 47)
 - Middenschool (the entrance is the gate at the Begijnhofkaai, a large building next to the river the Dender. Parking is possible at the playground at the back)
 - Het Koetshuis (Abdijstraat)

Disabled participants and their opponents, recognizable when the board number is above 1000, will also play in "Het Koetshuis".

	Locations	Board number	Total number of games	Number of players	Bar*	Stairs
1	The Preacher	1-15	15	30	Yes	Yes
2	City Hall	hall 1 16-24	9	18	No	Yes
		hall 2 25-30	6	12	No	No
3	Liberale Kring	31-40	10	20	Sometimes	Yes
4	Middle school	hall 1 41-57	17	34	Yes	No
		hall 2 58-74	17	34	Yes	No
5	Koetshuis	hall 1 75-94	20	40	Yes	No
		hall 2 95-111	17	34	Yes	Yes
		separate +1000*	6	12	Yes	No
	Totaal		max. 111	max. 222		

* For disabled participants.

* Bar Koetshuis and Middenschool: no sandwiches will be sold at the bar, only "mattentaarten" & drinks will be available.

- **Chief arbiter:** Marc BILS (BEL) (IA)
Deputy chief arbiters: Sylvin DE VET (BEL) (IA), Marc VAN DYCK (BEL) (B)
Deputy arbiters: Lennert BEX (BEL) (NA), Luc CORNET (BEL) (IA)
- **Registration - Payment - announcement of presence on the first day:**
 - Registration is only possible [online](#).
 - Payment of the entrance fees needs to be completed before the start of the tournament. FM and youth players (-20: born in or after 2001) is 30 EUR, otherwise the entrance fee is 50 EUR. Payment needs to be completed on IBAN BE24 9300 0548 7638 and BIC BBRUBEBB of VPTD Geraardsbergen.
 - Announcement of presence on the first day will happen differently from earlier years due to COVID. Announcement of presence is NOT required. If a player cannot be present during the first round, he/she needs to inform the organisation by phone BEFORE 11h am. At around 11h pm parings will be published on the site of the tournament. Players will need to go to their playing locations before 13h30.
- **entitlement to play:** according to art. 3.i of the Tournament Rules of the BCF, each player must be affiliated with a Belgian or foreign club. From August 2013, FIDE requires that every foreign player must have a FIDE ID. If a player is not in order, the FIDE will not process the results of the tournament for FIDE-ELO. In order to fulfill this obligation, the organization will refuse any registration of a foreign player if there is no FIDE ID. However, the player himself can turn to his own federation to

obtain a FIDE ID there. As soon as the organization has received his FIDE ID, his registration will be accepted.

Belgian players without a FIDE-ID can participate in the tournament if they are affiliated with a Belgian club. In this way, they can automatically receive a FIDE-ID.

- **Start of the rounds:** All odd rounds begin at 10h AM, with the even rounds beginning at 15h. The first day however will have exceptions: the first round starts at 14h, the second round will start at 19h. The prize ceremony will be held on Thursday 12/08 at 15h.
- **System of ranking at the start of the tournament:** the pairings of the open as well as the division into elo categories are made on the basis of ELO with the FIDE-ELO taken priority over the national ELO (Swiss on Rating)
- **sending the results:** the results of all games are forwarded for both FIDE and Belgian elo treatment. The results of players who are, by the start of the tournament, not affiliated with the Belgian Chess Federation (BCF) will not be forwarded for Belgian elo treatment.
- **COVID-measures:**
 - Participants who feel sick, or experience COVID-symptoms, or are healed from COVID after Tuesday 03/08 should remain at home.
 - Wash and disinfect your hands regularly. Be certain to do so after a visit to the bathroom.
 - Remain at a distance of 1.5 meters from others when possible, especially when not, or not yet fully, vaccinated.
 - Wearing facemasks protects others more than ourselves. Therefore the following rules will be in power:
 - When not seated at the board, a facemask needs to be worn at all times indoors. Players need to restrict time away from their board as much as possible. Visits to the bar or the bathroom are of course allowed, but during those visits participants do need to wear masks.
 - Since keeping a distance of 1.5 meters is impossible when playing, participants are required to wear facemasks during the games (this rule is also in effect for children under 12 years old). Only when BOTH participants agree players can take the mask off. This is always a personal responsibility.
 - Spectators will not be allowed in the tournament hall.
- **regulation:** the tournament will be played according to the FIDE Laws of Chess approved at the 88th FIDE Congress in Goynuk (Turkey) and which are in effect from January 1, 2018.
- **rate of play:** the Fischer rate of 90 minutes for a whole game, with an increment of 30 seconds per move, starting from move 1.
- **tie break system in case of equality of points:**
 1. Progressive
 2. Mutual result
 3. Buchholz Cut 1
 4. Average rating opponents Cut 1
- **Announced absence:** every player can announce their absence twice between rounds 1 and 7. For this absence players will receive half a point. The only requirement here is that players need to inform the tournament organisation BEFORE the new pairings are made. Absences can be checked on the list of participants or the standings. If a player is absent more than twice, or absent in rounds 8 or 9, he/she will also need to inform the tournament organisation beforehand. In this case however, the participant will not receive any points.

The organization sincerely requests that they are informed of every absence. Very few things are after all more annoying than waiting an hour for a player to come, only to win by forfeit because their opponent never arrived.
- **Pairings:** the pairings of the next round will be made about 15 minutes after the last game of the previous round. Pairings and results will be publicised on the internet (<https://vanpiontotdame.wixsite.com/vptd>) and will be printed and posted at the different playing locations. The program used for making the pairings will be the latest version of Swar (currently 5.06 of 01/06/2021). There are no accelerated pairings.

Due to the special situation brought upon by COVID, players do not need to announce their presence before the first round. This round will be publicized at around 11h on Sunday 08/08. Players will need to be present at their respective playing locations before 13h30.

- **Reporting the results:** After a game is finished, both players are required to write the results on their notation forms, and subsequently sign both forms. The original forms need to be given to the arbiter in pairs of two.
- **BYE:** if a player is bye, he should not be present that round. He gets a point for this. BUT, every player has to make sure that he is bye or not. It is not the organizations responsibility to inform players personally if they are bye or not.
- **forfeit:** players who forfeit a round without notifying one of the contact persons, will not be paired again for the next rounds. The irresponsible forfeits will be passed on to the BCF, which may take sanctions if necessary.
Pairings published on the website can still be changed in the case of a forfeit (even with the bye player) on condition that the chief arbiter and both players agree and this makes little or no difference for titles or prizes.
- **contact persons:** if you would have problems playing a round that has already been paired, then you should inform one of the following persons as soon as possible:
Luc CORNET ++32/474/99.52.74 of
Renaud BARREAU ++32/476/41.34.60 of
Robert ROMANELLI ++32/471/21.17.40
- **absence of players:** a forfeit of a player will be pronounced according to articles 2.g of the Tournament Rules of the BCF and 6.7.1 of FIDE Rules of Chess only if he has not shown one hour after the planned start of the session, unless the arbiter decides otherwise (article 6.7.2).
In case of an unannounced forfeit, a player may only go home as soon as an arbiter allows him to do so.
- **mobile phones:** according to the rules of FIDE it is forbidden to bring a mobile phone or any other electronic means of communication into the playing area (i.e. everything in the building: the gaming room, the toilets, the bar, the analysis room, the smoking room). But the Tournament Rules of the BCF are more flexible. During his match a player may not carry a mobile phone (or any other electronic means of communication) on his body. If it is found that he still carries such a device, he loses the game and his opponent wins (if mat potential). As a result, the players are asked, AT THEIR OWN RESPONSIBILITY, to leave their mobile phone at home or at their guest house or in their car, or to hand them SWITCHED OFF to a non-player. If all this is not possible, then it is allowed to place a mobile phone SWITCHED OFF AT YOUR OWN RESPONSIBILITY along your board, or in your jacket hanging on the chair (which is not taken to smoke), or in a (hand)bag (which is not taken to the toilets). It is also permissible for a player who enters the game room when the round is already started, to comply with this rule regarding his mobile phone before making his first move.
On the other hand, if it is discovered that a mobile phone is located in a allowed place, but it is not switched off, the owner, if he is still playing, will receive a penalty of 10 minutes that is deducted from his reflection time. (If with this penalty his flag would have fallen and he had not fulfilled the conditions within this period of time, he loses the game.) This player may then switch off his mobile phone in the presence of the arbiter. If later in the same game it is rediscovered that his mobile phone is not switched off, he loses the game.
- **anti-cheating measure:** the organization is equipped with a detector of electronic devices. Any proven abuse or fraud will be subject to prosecution and information to rightsholders.
- **Sofia-rules about draws:** without the permission of the arbiter, a player may not propose a draw to his opponent without having played at least 20 moves and at least one hour in total has been played. And in the case where the player would forget this rule and still suggest a draw, his opponent can't accept this unauthorized draw offer either. Claiming a draw on the basis of the cases provided for in the FIDE rules of Chess is of

course possible, but in those cases the claim must already have been addressed to the arbiter.

- **conduct:**
 - It is forbidden to disturb the opponent in any way.
 - Eating a biscuit or (piece of) fruit next to the board while playing is permitted. Anything else will be seen as disturbing the opponent. Drinking is also permitted.
 - It is forbidden to smoke in the player area. It is allowed to smoke outside. This means: **at the bottom of the stairs at the parking** (side of the electric gate) or on the terrace of the cafeteria or at the main entrance of the building (one can't smoke on the platform of the stairs at the arbiters, not even when it rains).
 - Analyzing and playing blitz in the playing hall after the end of a game is not allowed.
 - The players are asked to put the pieces in the starting position after their game and to switch off the electronic clocks.
 - Each player must sign both notation forms after the end of the game. The winner (or in case of a draw the white player) brings the original of the notation forms to the arbiter table.
 - When leaving the table after the game the players are also asked to take all waste and deposit in the bins as well as to bring the empties to the provided places at the back of the playing hall.
- **appeal committee:** an appeals committee is set up before the start of the second round. The composition will be displayed in the playing hall. If a player does not agree with the decision of an arbiter which is also ratified by the chief arbiter, he can lodge an appeal in writing and must deliver this to the chief arbiter within half an hour after the end of his game. In addition to this appeal, a guarantee of 100 EUR must also be issued. If the Appeals Committee judges that the appeal is fully or partially founded, the guarantee will be fully reimbursed. In the other case, the organization will transfer the guarantee to VPTP's account.
- **prizes:** The distribution of the prizes can be found on the website <https://vanpiontotdame.wixsite.com/vptd>. In case of equality on points the tournament prizes will be shared. The prizes for each category will also be shared. Here is a repeat of the announced prizes & categories:
 - First place in the tournament: 600 EUR
 - Second place in the tournament: 400 EUR
 - Third place in the tournament: 300 EUR
 - Fourth place in the tournament: 150 EUR
 - Fifth to eight place in the tournament: 100 EUR
 - First place per elo category (-2200, -2000, -1800, -1600 and -1400): 100 EUR
 - First woman: 100 EUR
 - First place for veterans (+60 = birthyear 1961 or lower): 100 EUR
 - First place youth categories (-20 (birthyear 2001 or higher), -16 (birthyear 2005 or higher), -12 (birthyear 2009 or higher)): 50 EUR
 - First place for the most represented association (apart from VPTD): 100 EUR
 - First place in the quiz: 100 EURTo have a prize in a category, there must be at least 5 participants.
- **prizes are not cumulative:** a player who qualifies for multiple prizes will receive the best prize. If he can win the same amount in several categories, the order in which the prizes are divided is as follows:
 - general ranking
 - ladies
 - rating category
 - age category
- **prize-giving ceremony:** on Thursday 12/08/2021 the prize-giving ceremony is scheduled for 17h30. The ceremony will take place on the terrace of The Preacher (if the weather allows it)
- **to be entitled to the prizes a mandatory presence is required.** unless in case of force majeure left to the discretion of the organizing committee, an absent player is not allowed to be represented and thus waives his prize.

In case of a problem, whatever, do not hesitate to make this known to the organization (possibly via the arbiters). We will provide the desired result to the extent possible.

Every suggestion is always welcome because it allows the organization to improve ...

**The entire organization team wishes you an excellent edition of The
36th Open of Geraardsbergen.**